Troops shrug off Abu threats, kill 11 bandits

STORY ON PAGE A2

RP dirty money law 'passes' EU scrutiny

LUXEMBOURG—A European Union (EU) watchdog body seeking to choke off terrorist cash has approved the recently passed Philippine money laundering laws but turned down similar legislation on the south sea island state of Nauru, EU ministers learned here Tuesday.

Draft conclusions of a joint council of EU finance and interior ministers said their Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had recom-

RP/ A18

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2001 ★ 56 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 311 ₱15

US having nervous breakdown?

LOS ANGELES—Is the United States having a nervous breakdown?

Airlines make emergency stops or are kept on the ground for the

US/ A18

RP major gas producer

Malampaya will reduce oil import costs by $700M every year

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO AND MEI MAGSINO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TABANGAO, Batangas City—The Philippines officially joined the league of major natural gas producers in the region after President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday led the inauguration here of the Malampaya deep-water gas-to-power project.

"Malampaya's contribution to Philippine development is of historic proportions and its impact will be long and widely felt far beyond the energy sector in the daily lives of Filipinos," Ms Macapagal said in her keynote speech.

The $4.8-billion Malampaya project—a joint venture between the Royal Dutch/Shell group, Texaco Inc., and the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co.—is the single largest foreign investment ever in the Philippines.

With the Malampaya project operational, the Philippines joins Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei as a major natural gas producer in the region.

"Many Filipinos never heard of Malampaya and many never will because they are in the hinterlands, but their lives will be touched by the Malampaya project," she said at the Malampaya On-Shore Gas Plant inside the Pilipinas Shell refinery here.

The President pointed out that the government would earn $13 billion in royalties from the project over the next 20 years.

"Malampaya would also reduce our $3-billion oil import bill by $700 million every year," she said.

Ms Macapagal added that the project would boost the country's self-sufficiency in electricity production to 52 percent.

This means that more than half of all the electricity generated will be produced using local fuel.

The Malampaya gas has a ready market of three power plants with a total generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

The power plants, all in Batangas, are the 500-mw San Lorenzo plant, the 1,200-mw Ilijan

RP MAJOR/ A18

CONFETTI rains on Malampaya which will impact beyond the energy sector and into the daily lives of every Filipino, President Macapagal says in her speech at the inaugural of the country's landmark project at the Shell Tabangao Refinery in Batangas City on Tuesday. Celebrating with the President, from left, are Phil Watts, chair of the committee of managing directors of the Royal Dutch Shell group of companies; Energy Secretary Vincent Perez; Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes; former President Cory Aquino; Oscar Reyes, Shell Philippines; former President Ramos (partly hidden), David Greer, managing director, Shell Exploration and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez. EDWIN BACASMAS

Soviet scientists behind anthrax?

MOSCOW—US officials suspect that some scientists of the former Soviet Union who worked on lethal germs have helped or may be helping regimes develop biological weapons, including the deadly anthrax behind the bioterrorism scare in the United States.

The old Soviet Union and, later, the Russian biological warfare program was so vast that it employed up to 70,000 people by the time of its official termination. Among its achievements was developing anthrax said to be resistant to antibiotics.

From small towns near this city to the steppes of Kazakhstan, the Soviet Union produced hundreds of tons of anthrax, under government programs now officially terminated.

SOVIET/ A18

Pinoy feeds US carrier's 5,500 crew

ABOARD THE USS CARL VINSON—It is a huge job to feed an aircraft carrier. It may be an even harder task to keep people who are cooped up at sea for months on end happy with what they get every time they sit down to eat.

The man in charge of feeding the 5,500 people on board this massive ship is mess manager and specialist, Master Chief Perry, a 45-year-old native of the Philippines, who has spent 12 years in the Navy, and is keenly aware of the daunting task at hand.

Military rules prevent Reuters from using his full name.

Although not a chef by training, Chief Perry said one of his goals is to meet the needs of the

PINOY/ A18

DAY 10: OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

US lets loose special forces gunships

KABUL, Afghanistan—For the first time in the now 10-day-old attack on Afghanistan, US special forces gunships went into action Tuesday, raking the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar with heavy machine gun and cannon fire. US jets also returned to Kabul, blasting military sites north of the city.

Asked what the gunships hit, a defense official who asked not to be named said, "it was a headquarters, troop complex in Kandahar.''

First use of the low-flying, lumbering turboprop, high-firepower AC-130 over Kandahar followed the fiercest daylight raids of the offensive and marked a stepping-up of attacks on Taliban bases and leadership.

It signaled US confidence that more than a week of attacks by ship-launched cruise missiles and high-flying jets had greatly eased the threat from the Taliban air defense.

In Washington, a defense official confirmed the use of an AC-130, marking the first acknowledged use of special-forces aircraft.

Typically used to support ground forces trained for small-unit operations, the AC-130 raised the prospect that the US special forces had entered the battle. But so far there has been no official word.

Previous raids had targeted anti-aircraft artillery sites and other military installations with the aim of mak-

US LETS/ A18

DENNIS SABANGAN

NO MUG shots for the former First Lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos. And no jail as she posts bail of P120,000 on Tuesday afternoon. She is accused of four graft charges filed in 1995.

Imelda's arrest order: 'A first step'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND DONNA S. CUETO

FIFTEEN years after falling from power, former first lady Imelda Marcos was ordered arrested yesterday by the Sandiganbayan on four graft charges stemming from her family's funneling of ill-gotten wealth to Swiss banks.

The criminal cases were filed in 1995. But government prosecutors submitted the evidence only last week.

But the 72-year-old widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos did not land in jail as she posted a bail of P120,000.

The Sandiganbayan 4th Division issued a warrant for her arrest shortly before noon yesterday.

With four lawyers in tow, she showed up to post bail at around 4:30 p.m. Sporting a blazer, long pants, shoes and a hand bag—all blue, Ms Marcos was also escorted by uniformed bodyguards and fe-

IMELDA'S/ A19

THE HOME FRONT

Teachers try to explain 'war' to kids

BY MA. CERES P. DOYO

Editor's Note: Are Filipinos ready for the "war on terrorism" and its uncertain consequences? "The Home Front" is an occasional series exploring the country's state of preparedness.

THIS is how Pamela Marie L. Vergara, a Grade 2 student at St. Scholastica's College Manila, wrote her letter to the President of the United States.

"Dear Pres. Bush, Please don't try to bomb Arabic countries. Some Filipinos are there like my mom working in Saudi. It's Bin Laden's fault. The hardworking Filipinos or Filipinas will be destroyed. And I think it's unfair. With what happened to your country remember this motto. Don't do to others what you don't want to do to you. I hope you learned something from me."

Vergara's letter, reprinted here exactly as it was written, was one of many letters written by St. Scholastica students shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Their teachers had met hurriedly to discuss what could be done, then gathered the children to help them express and process their feelings.

TEACHERS/ A19

Court gives OK but Erap a no-show

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND ROCKY NAZARENO

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday granted the request of Joseph Estrada's wife that he be allowed to attend a photo session at the Senate, but the ex-President himself demurred, saying he had changed his mind.

In a resolution issued 10 a.m., the third division chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy said it had found

COURT/ A6

A LETDOWN for Sen. Loi Ejercito who poses for posterity without her Erap between love teams Sen. Tito Sotto and wife Helen Gamboa; Sen. Francis Pangilinan and wife Sharon Cuneta. JESS YUSON

Second FRONT PAGE

NAPAPALIGIRAN NA KAYO, SUMUKO NA KAYO!!!

Truce violations threaten KL talks

KUALA LUMPUR—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday warned the government that ceasefire violations could scuttle talks toward a comprehensive peace pact.

Hardliners were urging the leadership of the MILF to end the talks and retaliate, MILF military affairs vice chair Murad Ebrahim told AFP in an interview here.

Murad, 52, is leading an 18-member MILF delegation for talks with the Philippine government in a third round of negotiations which began Monday.

The government is represented by a 17-member delegation, with chief negotiator Jesus Dureza due Wednesday. The talks are scheduled to last for five days.

Murad said the MILF had registered 12 ceasefire violations by the military in September and the first week of October.

"Our only request to the Philippines government is that they should seriously comply with whatever agreement we signed. *AFP*

Troops shrug off Abu threats, kill 11 bandits

ISABELA, Basilan—Eleven Abu Sayyaf rebels and two Marines were killed while two soldiers were wounded in clashes in Isabela and Sumisip in Basilan yesterday, as the military closed in on the bandit group linked to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi dissident accused of plotting the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Officials said troops had encircled the main Abu Sayyaf unit holding the US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and nine Filipino hostages in the jungle outskirts of Isabela, Basilan's capital.

As fighting raged on up to press time last night, the military rejected Abu Sayyaf threats that the US hostages would be killed if the offensive continued.

No negotiations

"The instruction of the President is no negotiations," said Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

Deputy chief of operations Col. Francisco Gudani said his men could see the Abu Sayyaf rebels holding the Burnhams and that the hostages were still alive.

We have visual contact and the Burnham couple are with the gunmen that soldiers are now fighting in the hinterlands," he said.

"The terrain is difficult, but we can say that government forces have surrounded a huge area in the town's jungle where the kidnappers and their hostages are believed to be hiding," he added.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the Abu Sayyaf were trying to negotiate with the government through an unnamed intermediary.

"We tell them that we will only talk about the release of the hostages but if they have any conditions, then we cannot negotiate," Golez said.

The encircled group includes about 60 Abu Sayyaf members including their leaders, as well as their two US and nine Filipino hostages, officers said.

Abu Sayyaf allies in Basilan were seen trying to reach the besieged group in an attempt to reinforce them or provide a diversion to help the leaders escape.

Reinforcement

"We will not allow them to close in. We have to strike everyone who wants to join in and reinforce this group," Cimatu said.

Cuimatu said he had ordered more "blocking deployment" of soldiers to prevent the fighting from spreading to other towns.

He said air strikes have also been launched in Sulu.

The fighting comes a day after the Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead the Burnhams if the military does not stop its assault.

Gudani said the Abu Sayyaf were under increasing pressure.

"They are short of ammunition… they lack food and rest and it's only a matter of time before we get them," Gudani said.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the Abu Sayyaf's new threats showed that they were concerned about the military offensive and were suffering from low morale.

Adan said at press briefing yesterday that there would be no talks unless the hostages are first released.

"We have two important missions—to recover the hostages, including the two Americans, and neutralize… the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group," he said.

But while the government was concerned about the safety of the hostages, including the nine Filipinos, he said it was resolved to get the Abu Sayyaf.

Not time for weakness

"This is not the time for us to show our weakness," he said.

The military spokesperson also commented on a telephone call to RMN radio that the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya made on Monday in which he put Martin Burnham on the phone to appeal to the military to back off.

Adan said that the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson had admitted in that interview that the bandit group had links with the terrorist Osama Bin Laden.

"Abu Sabaya revealed that they were against the Americans, they do not like what the Americans are doing to the Palestinians, they sympathize with them, and so with those statements, we can see the affiliation of the Abu Sayyaf with the Bin Laden-led terrorists," he said.

One of eight Filipino hostages who escaped in recent weeks as government troops advanced on the bandits, said he saw two foreigners believed to be Yemenis among the Abu Sayyaf from mid-September to Oct. 5. He said the two later left the group with some Abu Sayyaf leaders for a still unknown location.

Cimatu said they were hunting down these two foreigners. ***AFP and AP, with reports from Martin P. Marfil, Metro Manila, and Julie Alipala-Inot and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US warns Abu on hostages

WASHINGTON—The United States yesterday warned the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, which it has designated a terrorist organization, that it would be held responsible for the safety of two US hostages.

The warning came after Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya on Monday sparked fresh concern by telling President Macapagal-Arroyo she could be "bringing the cadavers" of US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham when she travels to Washington next month.

"We strongly condemn the threats to murder innocent people who are being held against their will," said US State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker.

"We will hold the Abu Sayyaf group responsible for the safety and well-being of all the hostages," Reeker said.

The bandit group, now under heavy attack on Basilan island by the military, killed another American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, in June.

They have threatened to kill the remaining Americans, who were kidnapped in May, if the military offensive is not halted.

On Monday, the Abu Sayyaf put Martin Burnham on a phone to Radio Mindanao Network to relay their demand that Ms Macapagal pull back troops and barter for the captives' freedom.

The President promptly rejected the call.

"There is a possibility that they can execute us if things do not go according to their desire," Burnham told RMN.

Ms Macapagal is to fly to Washington on Nov. 18 for talks with President George W. Bush, likely to focus on the US-led campaign against international terrorism.

She has agreed to a US request to freeze Abu Sayyaf assets, mostly raised from ransoming off dozens of Western tourists and journalists abducted last year.

In an executive order, Bush last month froze the assets of Abu Sayyaf among 27 individuals and groups allegedly linked to terrorism, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States. *AFP*

Gordon, Reyes stalled at CA

THE COMMISSION on Appointments yesterday deferred the confirmation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon after they ostensibly failed to convince some members of their fitness for their positions.

Another reason given was that there was not enough time to act on the appointments as Congress is to go on recess on Oct. 25.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will have to reappoint the two Cabinet secretaries, along with other officials who have not been confirmed.

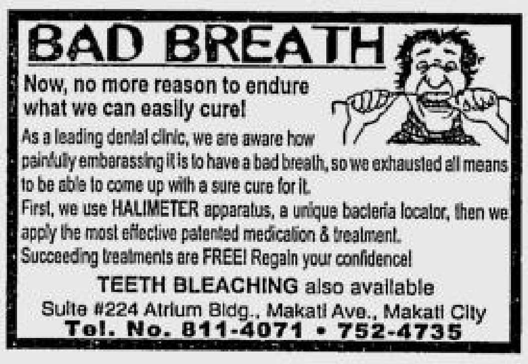
No complainant surfaced against Reyes during the hearing, but the ex-Armed Forces chief of staff was put on the wringer for his decision to withdraw support from ousted President Joseph Estrada during the second Edsa people power revolution.

Reyes said that if he had not decided to defect, there would have been bloodshed and chaos.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said Reyes' stated criteria and standards for withdrawing support from the President of the Republic "set a dangerous precedent."

The opposition contingent in the commission said they were inclined to delay the appointment of Reyes to give a chance for would-be oppositors to his appointment to come forward.

Gordon's appointment was challenged by Antonio Mendoza of the internal audit services of the Subic Bay Freeport who claimed that Gordon had used P855 million in government funds to pay for the salaries of volunteers when he was chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. *Cynthia D. Balana*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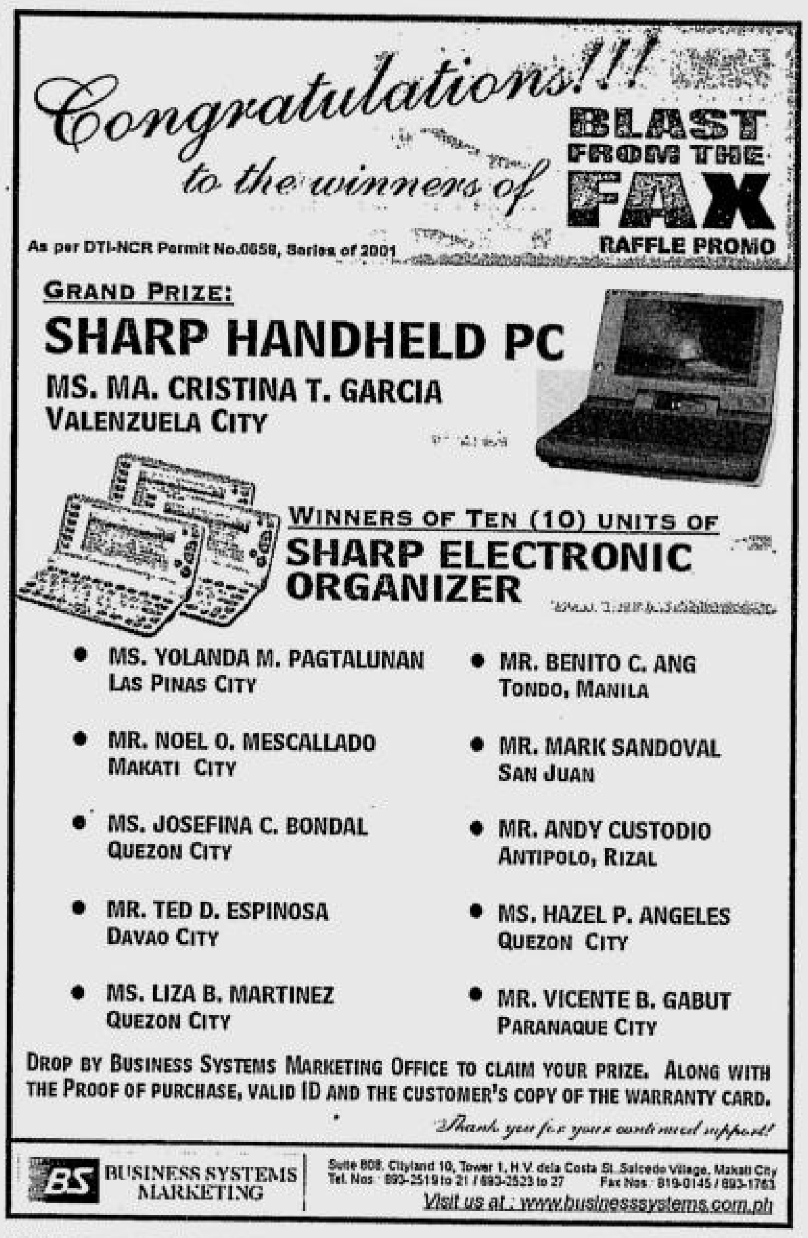
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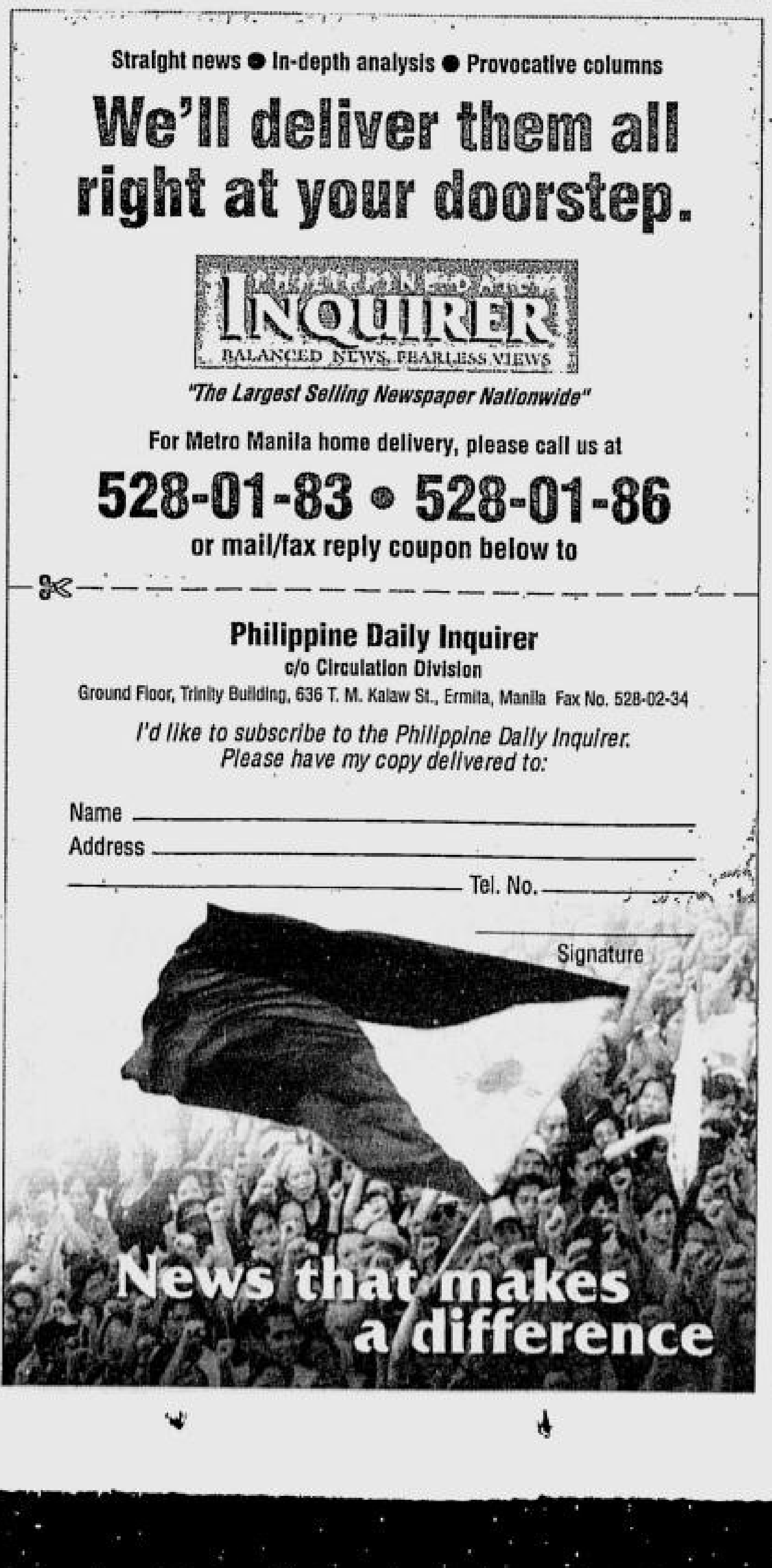
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Mike A won't attend next Senate hearing

By C. Pablo and R. Nazareno

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo will be unable to attend a Senate hearing on Friday on the alleged misuse of P250 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

Spokesperson Patricia Bunye said Arroyo would be joining his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, on a trip to Shanghai, China, to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit scheduled from Oct. 20 to 21.

Bunye said Arroyo, who has been summoned to appear on Friday by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and electoral reforms, would ask for a postponement of his appearance.

"He will appear before the Senate as soon as he is available," his spokesperson said.

Bunye, noting that Arroyo received the Senate summons only yesterday morning, said "this is causing some complications."

"The trip for the Apec was planned a long time ago," she explained.

The Senate has also summoned former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero, who has accused Arroyo of having caused the release of P250 million from the PCSO to help finance the election of four administration senatorial candidates in the May 14 polls.

Rivero also claimed that Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco was among those who knew of the alleged use of PCSO funds for the elections.

In a separate phone interview, Capco said he had not yet been officially informed whether his presence was required in Friday's hearing.

"I'm prepared to go to the Senate once I receive the appropriate notice," Capco said.

At the Senate, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who had delivered Rivero's charges in a privileged speech, said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto was not in possession of the evidence of Arroyo's alleged involvement in the PCSO scam.

Lacson was reacting to Desierto's statement the other day that his office had not found anything irregular in the disbursement of the P250 million from the PCSO and could not therefore prosecute Arroyo and the others.

"(The Ombudsman) did not get the evidence that Rivero has," Lacson told Senate reporters.

He said the Senate investigation would have a "deeper, wider scope."

The Senate has also summoned PCSO chair Ma. Livia de Leon, PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo and Bombo Radyo executive Joe Mamat to appear at the Friday hearing.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara also criticized Desierto for tending to exonerate "in advance" those suspected of involvement in the fund mess.

"We should now let the Senate investigation take its course so people will not wrongly interpret that the processes are not being followed," he said.

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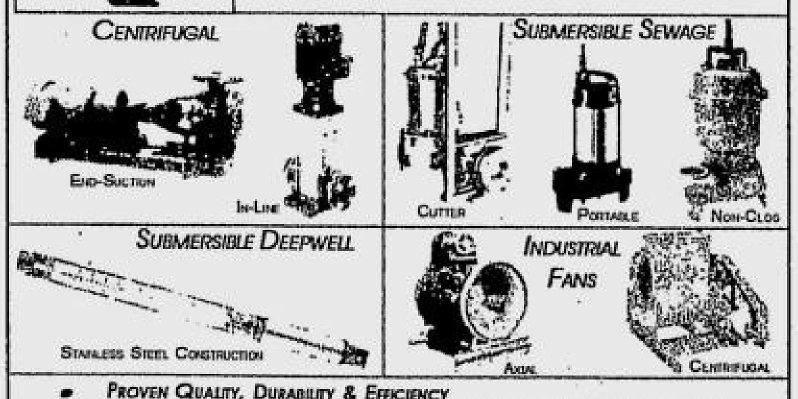

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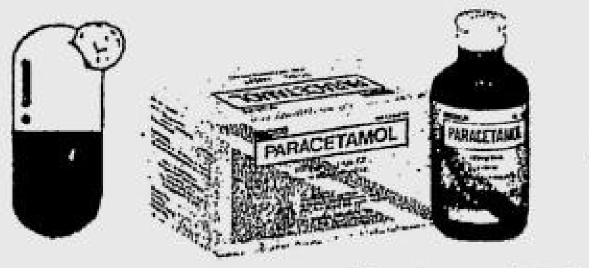

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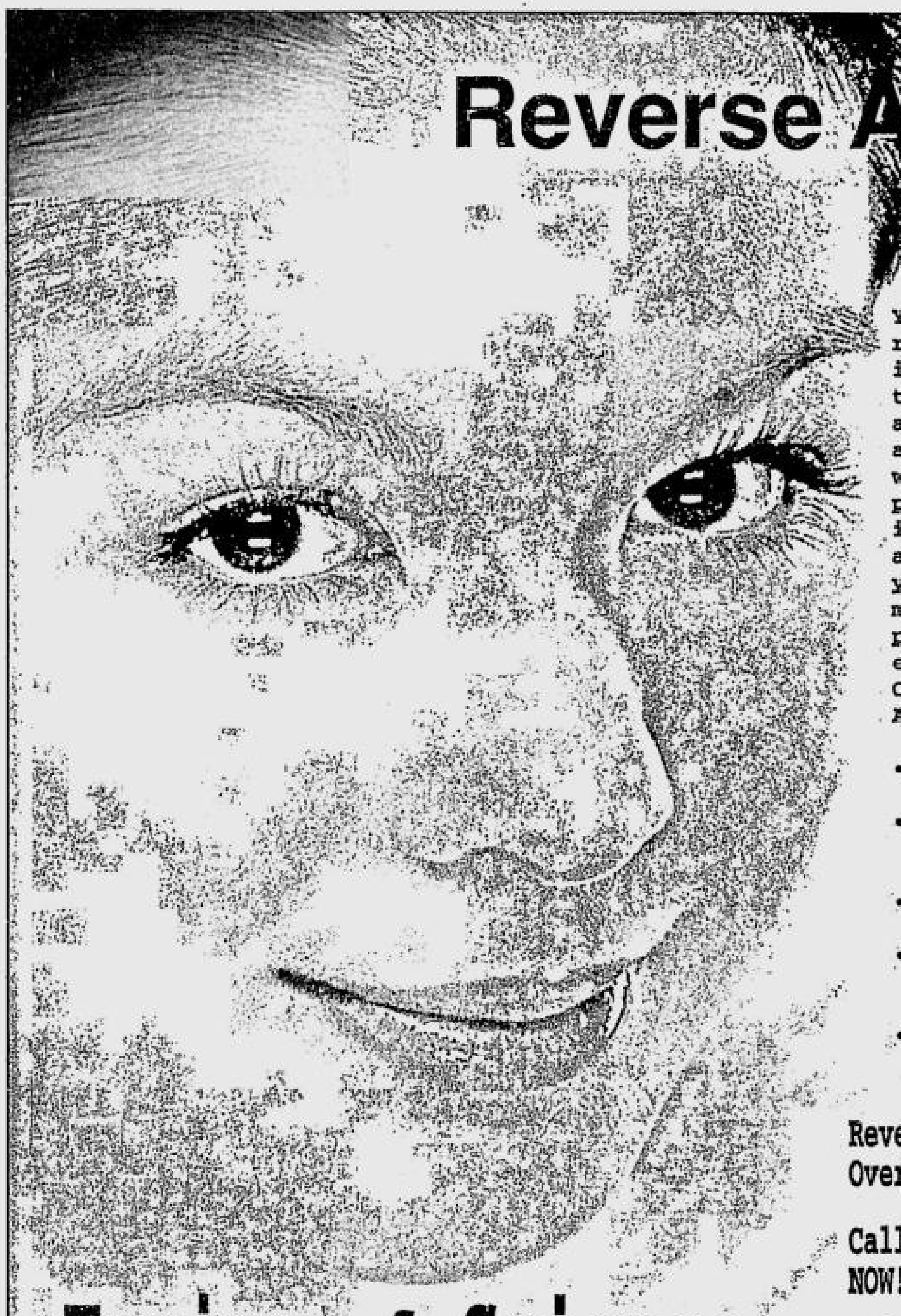

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DENR asked to lift restrictions on Picop to save 8,000 jobs

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE HOUSE committee on trade and industry has urged the environment department to lift restrictions on Picop Resources Inc. to enable the country's largest manufacturer of wood and paper products to resume its operations.

Rep. Harry Angping, committee chair, asked Director Romeo Acosta of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Forest Management Bureau to make a recommendation to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

In Monday's hearing on Picop's closure, its president Teodoro Bernardino said Picop has already closed down earlier this month its pulp and paper plant and would likewise close its forestry operations by end of the month.

Some 8,000 employees stand to lose their jobs with the closure of Picop.

Two Surigao del Sur congressmen, Representatives Jesnar Falcon and Prospero Pichay, have called for an investigation of officials of the DENR for alleged involvement of an illegal logging syndicate that is diverting some P500 million worth of logs yearly from the Picop tree plantation.

The two congressmen warned that the illegal logging and lack of government support are leading to the closure of the country's oldest sustained industrial forest plantation.

Aside from the loss of 8,000 jobs, the Picop closure would also mean a P200 million drop in taxes for the government, the two said.

They said that while the DENR had granted the company a seven-year permit, Picop is required to submit a yearly operations plan for approval. These constraints, they said, have prevented the company from competing more effectively with imports and have robbed it of the flexibility and continuity it needs in the market.

Angping and other committee members said Picop should be allowed to continue operations for the sake of the workers and the newspaper industry which gets its newsprint requirements from the company.

Angping noted that the closure of Picop is harsh especially because the Christmas season is approaching.

"Can we recall all these restrictions so that Picop can resume operations by next month? What is important is the survival of Picop and the newspaper industry," Agping said.

Bernardino said the "only conclusion" one can draw for the DENR's stringent attitude toward Picop is that it is protecting illegal loggers in the area.

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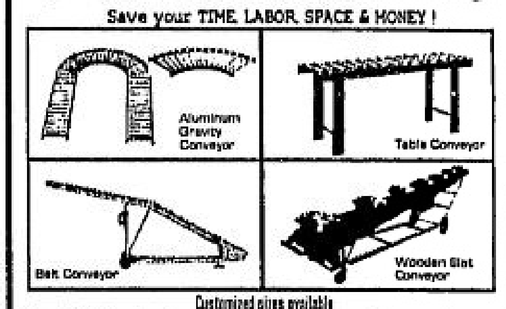

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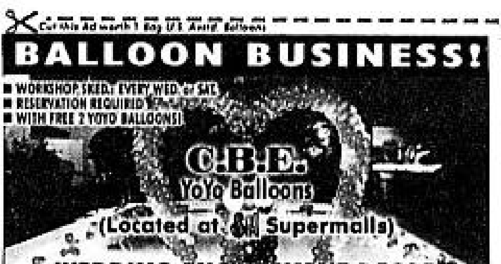

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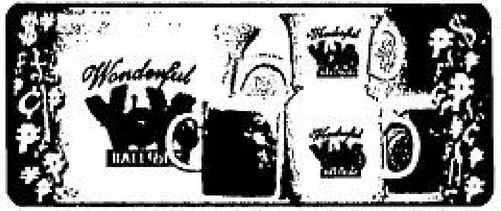

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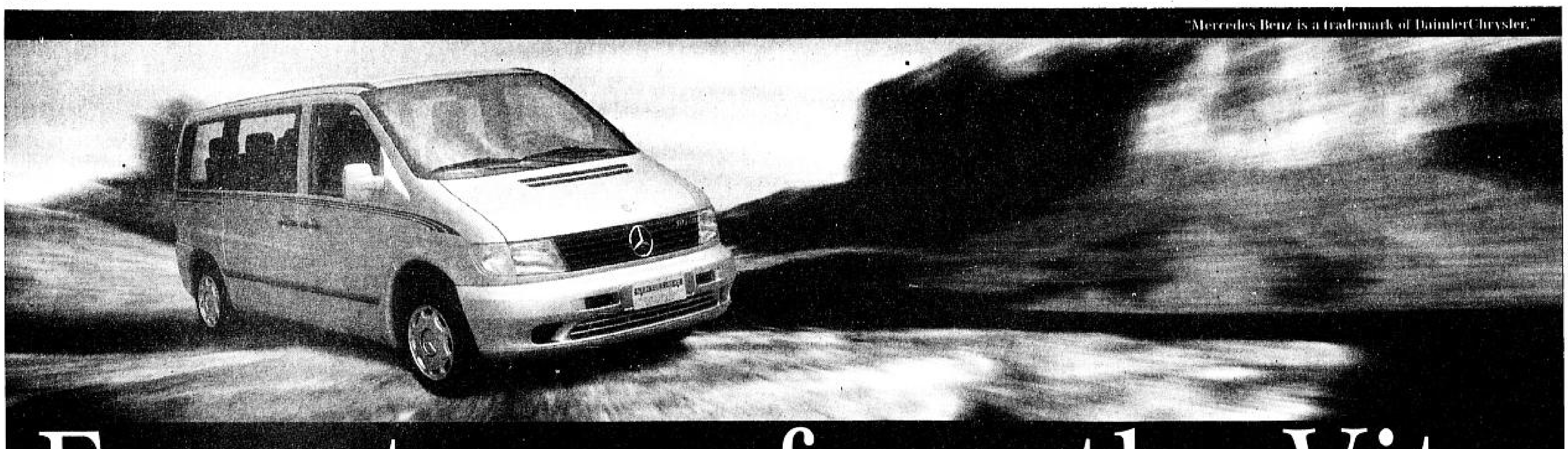

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Bidding row imperils rural power project

By Donna S. Cueto

A GOVERNMENT program to provide electricity to all of the country's rural barangays risks failure because of the National Electrification Administration's decision to cancel the award of a contract to supply woodpoles for the project.

To make matters even more precarious for the program, foreign funding for the project will expire on Oct. 20.

Nerwin Industries Corp., which won a nationwide bidding for the right to supply woodpoles for the rural electrification project, has warned that corruption at the NEA was behind its loss of the contract.

Nerwin president Jesus Santayana, in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, alleged that certain top officials at the NEA wanted to abrogate its winning bid and award the contract instead to the highest losing bidder.

"We won the government bidding for the supply and delivery of woodpoles and crossarms, fair and square," Santayana said in his letter to the President.

He said the bidding had been conducted on Feb. 16, 2000 in cooperation with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the main foreign founder of the project.

Nerwin posted the lowest complying bid of $11,702,965 "which is cheaper by P151,487,736 than those of the others and cannot be ignored by any well-meaning bidding committee in any government office," Santayana said.

Nerwin has filed a civil suit against top NEA officials, led by NEA chair Vicente Perez, administrator Manuel Luis Sanchez and acting administrator Francisco Silva, for their alleged failure to implement the project on time.

The period within which NEA may exercise its right to avail of the foreign funding for the project will expire on Oct. 20, Newin said in its suit.

Without the needed financing, the project will be scrapped, causing "harm and injury to the public which is the intended beneficiaries of the Rural Electrification Project, as well as irreparable harm and injury to the plaintiff," it said.

The company said that the other components of the project such as transformers, wires, hardware, and trucks, among others, which have been bought and already delivered were now "deteriorating." The entire electrification project cannot be started without the woodpoles and crossarms, Nerwin said.

In an earlier Sept. 19 memorandum, NEA's pre-bidding and awards committee recommended that the woodpole project be awarded to Nerwin.

Then NEA administrator Conrado Estrella III approved the recommendation, and made his own recommendation to the NEA board.

The board, however, passed Resolution No. 32 approving the award to Nerwin of only 50 percent of the project. When Nerwin refused, the NEA threatened to cancel the award to the firm and "to blacklist and disqualify (it) from all biddings in NEA unless (it) will agree to assign its rights to one of the losing bidders."

On Sept. 19, the NEA board passed a resolution invalidating the award to Nerwin and started the process of awarding the contract to the highest losing bidder, TriState.

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Court gives OK but Erap a no-show

(From page A1)

Sen. Luisa Ejercito's request "reasonable" and granted it "in order to give real meaning and full expression to the time-honored, beautiful and happy tradition of the solidarity of the Filipino family."

But as early as 7 a.m., Estrada was already telling TV interviewers that he was not attending the afternoon function organized in connection with the Senate's 85th anniversary.

He claimed to be concerned that the measures required to secure him whenever he was taken out of detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center would eat up "P1.5 million" in taxpayers' money each time.

Estrada expressed the same concern to Senate reporters shortly before the photo session for senators and their spouses proceeded as scheduled at 2 p.m. at the Sen. Claro M. Recto Room.

Speaking by phone from his quarters at the Quezon City hospital, he said that the money to be spent for his security would only be wasted and that the government would be better off spending it on other, more important matters.

"*Ilang* posing *lang naman iyon sa* picture taking, *tapos ang laki ng gastusin* (There will only be a few poses, but the expense will be so big)," he said. "That's such an expensive picture."

Going with her husband's austerity theme, Ejercito said she respected his decision. She said the government should just give to "the poor" the money that would otherwise be spent for his attendance at the Senate function.

The anti-graft court actually allowed Estrada to attend not only the 2 p.m. picture taking but also "any social" with incumbent and former senators, provided this was within the Senate building and only up to 5 p.m.

In granting its permission, the Sandiganbayan decided to "overlook" the "procedural deficiency" of Ejercito's request, noting that it reached the court in a letter faxed by Senate secretary Oscar Yabes, and not in the form of a motion by Estrada lawyers.

The one concerning the photo op was not the only favorable news yesterday for the disgraced ex-president.

Around 4:30 p.m., the third division issued another ruling canceling the continuation of the plunder trial in order to hear the defense panel's motion seeking to nullify the first trial day that Estrada attended in the absence of his lawyers.

The court ruled that "in view of the pendency of certain incidents, most especially the Motion for Vacatur (filed by the defense), the continuation of the trial scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 17 and 18, are hereby canceled."

A day after the trial's opening on Oct. 1, Estrada's lawyers—all nine of whom had claimed unavailability on that date—filed the motion to have the previous day's proceedings nullified.

They said Estrada and his co-accused son Jinggoy were not properly represented, and that the court's decision to proceed with the trial was a violation of their rights.

They also criticized the court's appointment of two public attorneys for Estrada on that day.

At today's supposed continuation of the trial, government prosecutors were to resume direct examination of their first witness, Willie Ng Ocier, vice president of Belle Corp.

Ocier was to testify on how Estrada allegedly collected almost P190 million in commissions from the sale of Belle shares of stock to the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

At the photo session, Ejercito, dressed in an orange *saya*, was flanked by Helen Gamboa and Sharon Cuneta, spouses of Senators Vicente Sotto and Francis Pangilinan.

Both show biz personalities are known to be close to Estrada.

Notable by their absence were Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was supposedly in Cebu for a speaking engagement, and the US-based spouses of Senators Panfilo Lacson and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

2 out of 3 Filipinos believe Estrada getting fair trial

By Juliet L. Javellana

TWO out of three Filipino adults believe that Joseph Estrada is getting a fair trial for plunder at the Sandiganbayan but three out of four are hoping that the trial will be televised, the Social Weather Stations said.

According to the SWS survey conducted Sept. 1-18 among 1,200 Filipinos of voting age, a 40-percent plurality believes that Estrada enriched himself by hundreds of millions of pesos while he was president.

Sixty-nine percent believes that the government's treatment of Estrada is just right; 23 percent, too harsh; and 17 percent, too lenient.

The SWS said opinions did not change much from its survey of July 9-27, when 63 percent described the government's treatment as just right; 24 percent, too harsh; and 13 percent, too lenient.

On whether the Sandiganbayan is pro- or anti-Estrada, 66 percent of the respondents said it was neutral or fair.

Those that considered the Sandiganbayan anti-Estrada comprised 20 percent, and pro-Estrada, 12 percent. Two percent had no answer.

The SWS said the majorities were solid across the country (58 percent in Metro Manila, 65 percent balance of Luzon, 74 percent in the Visayas and 63 percent in Mindanao) and across social classes (56 percent in ABC, 67 percent in D or the masses, and 64 percent in E or the very poor).

But in the ABC classes, more think that the Sandiganbayan is pro-Estrada.

The SWS also asked the respondents whether they believed that Estrada enriched himself in office.

Forty percent believed so, 28 percent did not, and a significant 31 percent said they did not know enough to give an opinion on the issue.

In the July SWS survey, 46 percent believed that Estrada used the name "Jose Velarde" to hide millions of pesos in the bank; 55 percent, that he received "jueteng" money; and 40 percent, that he received kickback from tobacco taxes from his accuser, then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

The Supreme Court has ruled against the live television coverage of Estrada's plunder trial, which has barely begun.

But the SWS surveys have found a strong desire for a televised trial: 75 percent of the respondents in September, 76 percent in July and 83 percent in May.

The SWS said the desire to watch Estrada's trial on TV was consistent with the near-unanimity of respondents wanting him to testify personally at his Senate impeachment trial.

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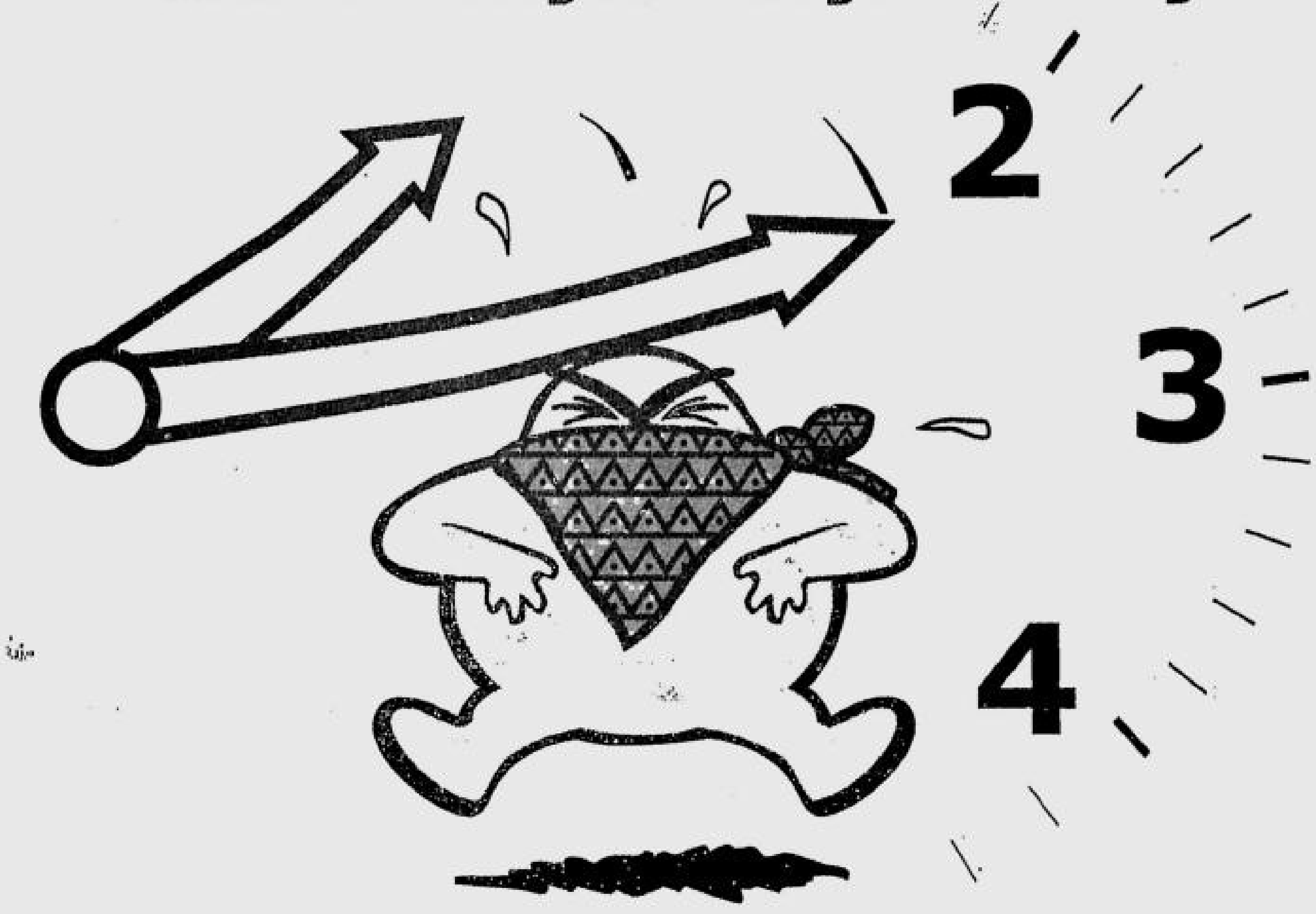

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₱1-B SHABU HAUL

Drug raps ordered vs mayor

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday ordered the filing of drug charges against Panukulan, Quezon Mayor Ronnie T. Mitra and three others for illegal trafficking of P1 billion worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

The drug charges were ordered filed before the Regional Trial Court of Infanta, which has jurisdiction over the municipality of Real.

It was in the town of Real where the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group and the National Bureau of Investigation nabbed Mitra, Ruel Dequilla, Javier Morilla and Willy Yang while allegedly in the act of transporting more than 500 kg of shabu.

Two vehicles—a Starex van with the commemorative plate "MAYOR" and a municipal ambulance—were allegedly used by the suspects in transporting the seized drug haul.

In a three-page inquest resolution yesterday, State Prosecutor Alberto Fonacier, said he found the "existence of a prima facie case for transporting regulated drugs."

He added: "Finding the (PNP-Narcotics Group's) complaint uncontroverted, the said respondents' shall be indicted for transporting the said regulated drug."

The county's heinous crime law allows the imposition of the maximum penalty of death on those convicted of distribution of more than 200 grams of shabu.

Fonacier, however, said the charges hurled against the mayor was not in any way related to the performance of his official functions.

"For which reason, there is no more need to endorse the foregoing resolution to the Office of the Ombudsman for his review and recommendation," he added.

Fonacier said the NBI Forensic and Chemistry Division attested that the seized drugs tested positive for shabu.

"When the said items were submitted to the Physical Science Division of the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame… it also gave positive result to the test for the presence of methamphetamine hydrochloride with a total weight of 503 kilos," he added.

Lawyer Reynaldo Lugto, counsel for the suspects, manifested on Monday that he did not intend to submit any controverting evidence and would instead submit the case for resolution.

Based on Fonacier's findings, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito R. Zuño immediately ordered the filing of the drug charges.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 17, 2001
28th Week in Ordinary time

1st Reading: Rom 2:1-11
Gospel: Lk 11:42-46

Jesus said, "A curse is on you, Pharisees; for the Temple you give a tenth of all, including mint and rue and the other herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. This ought to be practiced, without neglecting the other. A curse is on you, Pharisees, for you love the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted in the marketplace. A curse is on you for you are like tombstones of the dead which can hardly be seen; people don't notice them and make themselves unclean by stepping on them."

Then a teacher of the Law spoke up and said, "Master, when you speak like this, you insult us, too." And Jesus answered, "A curse is on you also, teachers of the Law. For you prepare unbearable burdens and load them on the people, while you yourselves don't move a finger to help them."

Commentary

The gospel is the story of the conflict between God and evil. On the human level, this conflict is told as the controversy between Jesus and the spiritual leaders of Israel. In Jesus' society, the experts of the Law, also called the scribes, were the learned theologians. The Pharisees took their interpretations seriously and followed them seriously. Here Jesus condemns the extremes of a religion based on rules rather than love and justice. Likewise, the vanity of seeking status in religion and the sin of hypocrisy visible in external piety are condemned. These are some of the inconsistencies of pious people. What is even more serious is that in our zeal for piety, we are unaware of our own inconsistencies. Inconsistency is sin

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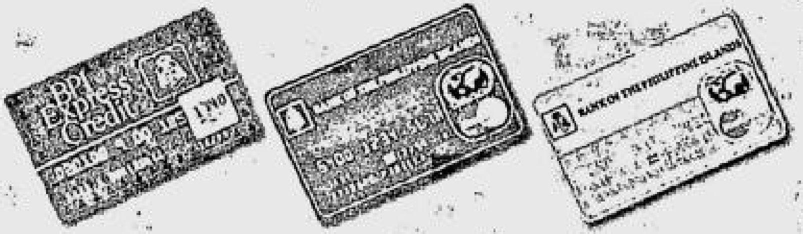

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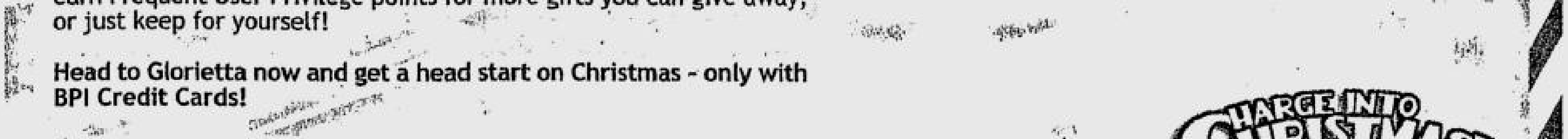

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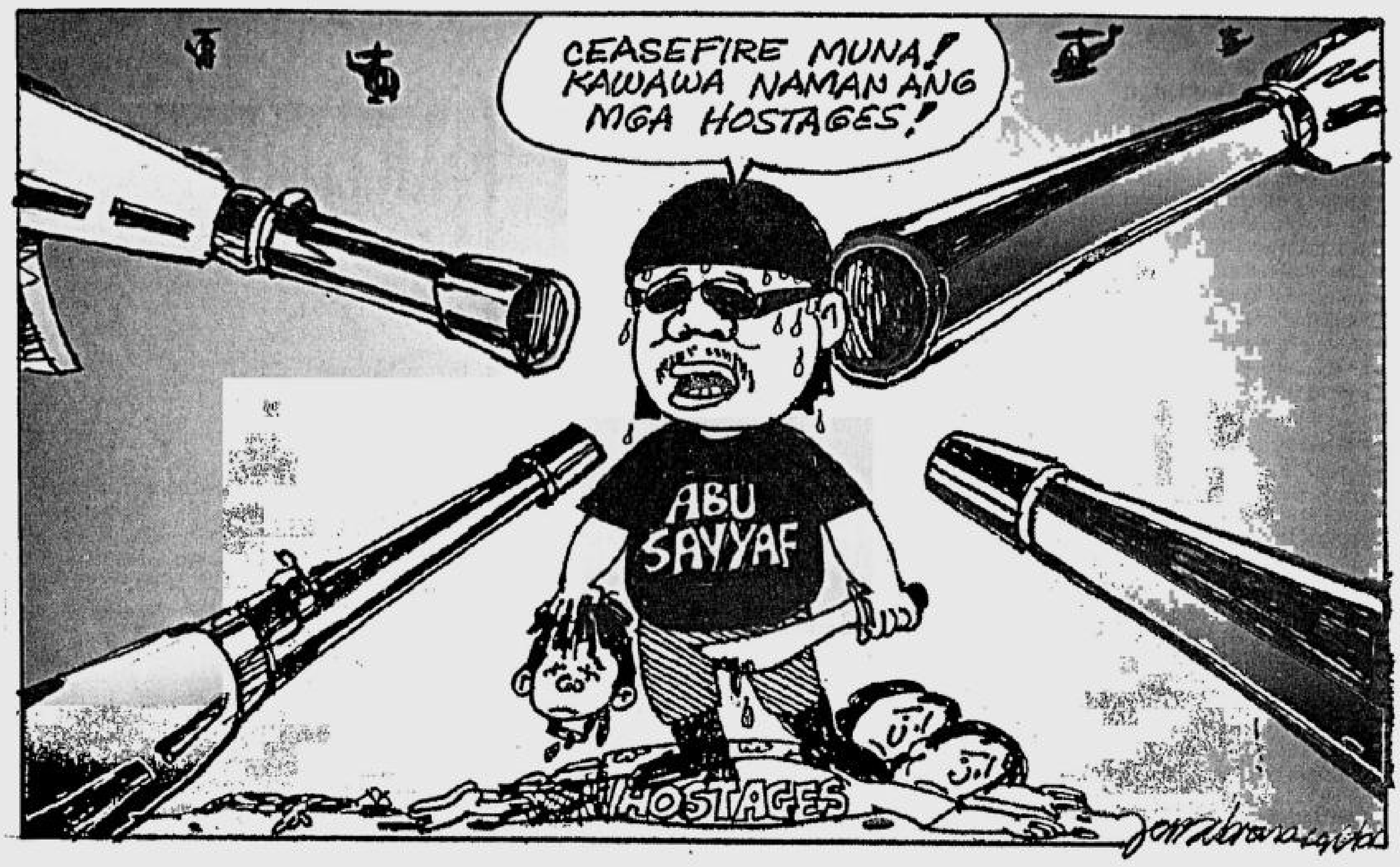
CEASEFIRE MUNA! KAWAWA NAMAN ANG MGA HOSTAGES!
ABU SAYYAF
HOSTAGES

Unfinished business

EDITORIAL

MAYOR Ronnie T. Mitra of Panukulan, Quezon is facing administrative and criminal charges for the illegal use of a government vehicle. And already that is news in itself. The use of government vehicles for unofficial purposes like going to market or to a fiesta or even to church has become so common no one thinks of it as a violation of the law anymore. Even so, the infraction could put Mitra in jail for as long as six months. That is what the Revised Penal Code says.

However, that is the least of Mitra's problems. His bigger problem is how to explain the presence of about 500 kilos of shabu inside a government ambulance assigned to his municipality. Mitra was caught Saturday by a joint team of the PNP Narcotics Group and the National Bureau of Investigation as he was escorting the ambulance in his own Hyundai Starex van. Arrested with him after a brief chase on the national highway in Real, Quezon, were his driver Javier Morillas, his bodyguard Ruel Dequialla and a Chinese national, Willie Yao. If convicted, they could be sentenced to death by lethal injection.

The seizure of 500 kilos of shabu has been described as the biggest haul in the government's continuing campaign against illegal drugs. Had it reached the streets, it would have been enough to give a fix to some two million users. And the drug lords and the pushers behind the shipment would have raked in as much as P1 billion. Thus, this successful operation represent a major achievement in the government's campaign against illegal drugs. Everyone who took part in the operation, from the intelligence operatives who gathered information to those who effected the arrest, should take a bow. This feat helps restore somewhat public confidence in our law enforcement authorities, especially in the police whose image has been badly battered by shocking revelations about the involvement in drug trafficking not only of anti-narcotics agents but also of former top police officials.

Still this is no time yet for the authorities to rest on their laurels. While they may have notched a series of successes lately (in April, the police uncovered the biggest shabu laboratory in Lipa City and confiscated P2 billion worth of shabu and chemicals used in its manufacture), the war against drugs is far from won yet. In fact, the Real bust raises a number of disturbing questions.

Bishop Julio Labayen of Infanta and Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes are puzzled that such a huge shipment could have reached shore in the first place. Labayen noted that the Navy and the Coast Guard are supposed to be constantly patrolling the coastal areas of Quezon, following the seizure of several shipments of shabu. "But are they performing their jobs with zeal and commitment?" he asked. Nantes had a similar question: "What went wrong with the government agencies concerned that they did not detect the unloading of the contraband?"

Then there is Mitra, who must have been involved in narcotics for quite some time to be trusted with such a huge shipment. There are no secrets in a small town like Real or Panukulan. So how did he get to be so big in such a deadly business as drugs without the authorities knowing about it until recently? Who are his suppliers? Who are his protectors? Who are the middlemen and pushers?

There must be a whole organization out there to handle a business involving P1 billion in a single transaction. The authorities should not rest until that organization is dismantled and its key people are brought to justice.

Who speaks for Islam?

FOREIGN COMMENT

IT is understood: Islam does not have a sole spokesperson. One of the world's three great monotheistic religions, with a billion followers, it has many schools and interpreters. So we could not have expected an authorized comment on the call for jihad launched by Osama bin Laden and his spokesperson.

Considering what we know about its author, it was nothing more or less than a call for indiscriminate violence—racist violence, contrary to all the traditions of Islam.

But we are still waiting for condemnations, public and unequivocal, from the most official Muslim religious authorities.

We have hardly heard from the great Muslim intellectuals either.

Too uncertain of their legitimacy, the Arab regimes have remained silent also.

The Muslim world is uncomfortable with "Enduring Freedom." Regimes feel threatened, opinions misunderstood. In the face of this dangerous situation, Tony Blair repeated insistently that the West is not against Islam. And that we must not fall into the trap set by Bin Laden, that of a war of civilizations.

Le Monde (Paris)

Solons abusing rights of ordinary citizens

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER READING the abuse of power by Rep. Ma. Victoria Locsin, read another abuse of power by another congressman against ordinary citizens. And how fellow congressmen, including the leadership of the House of Representatives, tolerate, abet, protect and shield the offending congressman for no other reason than they are colleagues. The House is an "old boys' club" of the worst kind that protects its own even if they are committing acts that are patently illegal and immoral. Consider this:

In December 1998, the Philippine Veterans Bank sold a foreclosed apartment building in Santa Cruz, Manila, for P7.1 million in a public bidding to two young businessmen, Mark Anthony Purisima and Heinrich Suson. The amount has been fully paid, it is now October 2001, or three years later, but the PVB refuses to sign a deed of absolute sale so the buyers can take possession of the property they purchased. Reason: a congressman is allegedly pressuring the bank not to go through with the sale because he wants the apartment building for himself. That congressman is Rep. Harry Angping (NPC) of Manila.

Angping claims he intervened in the sale because he wanted to protect his constituents who were tenants in the apartment building. He wanted the bank to give his constituents the right of first refusal, he said. As vice chair of the House committee on veterans affairs, he filed a resolution to investigate the corporate acts of the PVB. The resolution was signed by five other congressmen: Oscar Moreno, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Leovegildo Banaag, Alex Bascug and Hussein Amin.

The two aggrieved businessmen filed a complaint with the ethics committee chaired by Rep. Antonio Abaya against Angping and the five other congressmen. That was filed last Aug. 2, 2001. It is now Oct. 17, 2001 but the ethics committee is sitting on the complaint. Last Sept. 19, the two businessmen sent a letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia informing him of the facts of the case and asking his help to get the case moving. It is almost a month later but there is no sign of any movement.

Some tenants of the apartment building had filed in court on July 2, 1999, a petition seeking the nullification of the sale on the ground that as tenants they have the right of first refusal. The court rejected the petition, saying they have no such right. Earlier, the buyers had filed ejectment proceedings against the tenants for nonpayment of rent. The regional trial court ruled in their favor. The tenants appealed to the Court of Appeals, which ruled against them. They went up to the Supreme Court, which also rejected their appeal, saying it was not "moot and academic" and that the ejectment order is final and executory.

But ejectment could not be implemented because of the interference of Angping.

Why is the "honorable" congressman doing this? Because, according to Purisima and Suson, he wants to buy the property himself. Angping, they said, had learned that Henry Sy plans to build a new SM shopping mall within the nearby San Lazaro Hippodrome, which is expected to raise the value of the property. In fact, they said that the bank had informed them that it would "return their money and sell the property that is rightfully ours to Congressman Angping. This was because the bank, just like any financial institution, feared a bank-run that would emanate from a scandal caused by a House investigation."

Threatened with a lawsuit, the bank, in three letters dated Jan. 24, 2001, March 1, 2001 and April 18, 2001, offered to finally execute the absolute deed of sale. "However, when we tried to set an appointment with the bank officers through PVB lawyer Rydely Valmores, we did not get any response from them," the two buyers said. "We can deduce that these letters were merely sent to us so that the bank can utilize these letters as a defense in the event that we decide to file a case against them in court."

Meanwhile, the life savings of the two buyers are frozen in the property and losing value. The P7.1 million is not earning any interest and inflation is eating up its purchasing power.

What can ordinary citizens like Purisima and Suson do to protect their rights against the abuse of power of Angping (and also of House pretender Ma. Victoria Locsin) who, instead of representing citizens in Congress, are actually using Congress to oppress these citizens? When even complaints against them in appropriate bodies are derailed because of the "old boys' club" mentality among the members of Congress? When even courts of law are rendered impotent by congressmen abusing their power?

Rebels like those in the New People's Army have a solution for that but we are not suggesting they resort to this solution.

A truly foreign policy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a presidential daughter and recent beneficiary of people power, who is giving voice to Southeast Asia in the Apec, it is Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri, another presidential daughter and beneficiary of people power, who is. In contrast to Ms Macapagal's mindless repetition of the American mantra on anti-terrorism, Megawati has risen to proclaim before the world:

"Whoever commits terror must be punished. However, the search for and the bringing to justice of the perpetrators of terror or those parties who harbor them must be in accordance with law that is generally acceptable. It is unacceptable that someone, a group, or even a government—reasoning that they are searching for perpetrators—attack a people or another country for whatever reason. Blood cannot be cleansed by blood."

You cannot attribute that entirely to better speechwriters, though that is clearly the case too, giving the lie to the rumor that the best English in Southeast Asia is spoken in these shores. Truth is the best English there is: You wrap a monkey in the robes of kings, and it remains a monkey. More than that, Megawati obviously has the better mind. She has a better grasp of the sentiments of the region, she has a better grasp of the folly that is the American bombing of Afghanistan, she has a better grasp of what it takes to fight terrorism.

Frankly, I do not know why Ms Macapagal has taken the tack she has. The only reason I can think of is that she is really desperate to cull American favor to boost her chances in 2004. She would delude herself to think she would loom large as a world-class statesman with it. The image of the Philippines as America's right arm in Asia has never elicited awe from other Asian countries, it has elicited laughter.

At the very least, the tack is suicidal. The overseas Filipino workers, as government keeps reminding us, are the lifeblood of the country. They are the ones who supply the dollars that keep the economy afloat. Well, where are many of those OFWs but in the Middle East? Where are many of those OFWs but in the Arab countries? Where are many of those OFWs but in the Muslim countries?

The Department of Foreign Affairs has already issued an advisory to Filipinos in those parts of the world to not be too vocal about their support for the American cause to avoid trouble. It did so in the wake of the shooting of a Canadian and his Filipino wife while they shopped in a mall in Kuwait. The Canadian died while the Filipino was seriously wounded. But the DFA misses its target. Its advisory is not best issued to the OFWs, most of whom possess not only common sense but possess uncommon ability to see things from the perspective of the people they live with. It is best issued to the President of the Philippines herself.

Ms Macapagal's espousal of the American cause, done with a zeal over and above the call of duty, opens our OFWs up not just to mayhem but to all sorts of discrimination. It openly invites maltreatment, quite apart from shipping back to the Philippines. It will not make Filipinos the first choice in hiring or the last in firing. You would think that the Apec, being expressly concerned with the survival of nations, would inspire some sense of realism in Ms Macapagal. It has not.

But Ms Macapagal's tack is not just suicidal, it is wrongheaded. It is not just the Muslim countries—Indonesia and Malaysia—that are lukewarm to the anti-terrorist cause being espoused by the Americans in Apec. It is also the other Asian countries. I do not know that any country in Southeast Asia shares the Philippines' enthusiasm for it. You won't hear the Indo-Chinese countries rooting for it. You won't hear Thailand applauding it. You won't even hear Singapore, the most iron-fisted country in the region, trumpeting it.

Who in God's or Allah's name wants terrorism? But the point is not what and when, it is how and why. That is what the other countries, as voiced out by Megawati, want to know. She does not speak for the Muslim countries alone, she speaks for the Asian continent as a whole. Only the Philippines is willing to believe there can only be one campaign against terror, and that is the one America is calling for. Only the Philippines is willing to believe that either you agree to such things as the bombing of Afghanistan, the rearming of Southeast Asia, and the blanket endorsement of American global policy, or you are a supporter of terrorism, if not a terrorist yourself.

You would think our own experience in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf would have shown the folly of that belief. The Abu Sayyaf is obviously a terrorist group. How to destroy them? We answered that by unleashing the dogs of war on the island of Basilan, reasoning that the people there were guilty of harboring them, and must pay the price for it. The result being that instead of alienating the Abu Sayyaf from the people of Basilan and the Muslim community in general, we gave the latter a reason if not to find common cause with them at least to commiserate with them.

The same is true with the bombing of Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden is obviously a terrorist, as is his al-Qaida network. How to destroy them? The United States has answered that by unleashing the winds of war on Afghanistan, reasoning that the people there are guilty of harboring them and must pay the price for it. The result being that instead of alienating the terrorists from the Afghan people and the Muslim *umah* generally, it has given the latter if not a reason to find common cause with them at least to commiserate with them.

And now we want to internationalize that idiocy and make it the hallmark of our foreign policy? No wonder we call it a foreign policy. It is monumentally foreign to us.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com.

Ratings

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's public satisfaction rating after the Sept. 11 attack by terrorists in the United States is yet to come, but her strong policy support for the US-led international coalition in its war on terrorism could affect her rating either way.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada's public satisfaction rating shot up in the second and third quarters of 2000 after he launched an "all-out war" on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the summer of that year, reversing the slump of his popularity in the first half of the year.

A war policy tends to galvanize public opinion behind a sitting administration, and President Macapagal has put her administration foursquare behind the coalition's war which has now entered the phase of air strikes on Afghanistan.

The salient feature of her 14-pillar policy in support of the war on terrorism allows the US and allied forces to use the former American bases in Clark and in Subic for refueling of aircraft and ships, and for transshipment of military supplies and troops en route to staging points near Afghanistan. This policy has come under attack from the nationalists and leftists who, while condemning the suicide bombings, have denounced the bombing of the Taliban camps and military installations and the US policy in the Middle East. Their rhetoric echoes that of Osama bin Laden.

President Macapagal's satisfaction rating needs a boost. As polled by the Social Weather Stations, her rating for April, May, July and September has remained flat—and a plateau is a dangerous sign. Her rating in April was 42 percent satisfied and 25 percent dissatisfied (or a +17 percent net satisfaction rating); in May, 45 percent satisfied and 27 percent dissatisfied (or a +18 percent net satisfaction rating); in July, 46 percent satisfied, and 29 percent dissatisfied (or a +17 percent net satisfaction rating); and in September, 45 percent satisfied and 30 percent dissatisfied (or a +15 percent net satisfaction rating).

From April to September, her net satisfaction rating dropped by 2 percentage points. Her net satisfaction rating tumbled from +24 in March (three months after she took office as President) to +15 in September. Two big events took place between March and September—the May 1 rebellion by the urban poor incited by Estrada's political allies, and the May elections in which the administration's People Power Coalition senatorial candidates won 8-5-1.

The SWS poll found that public distrust for Estrada had stabilized. In September, 34 percent had much trust for him and 43 percent had little trust, compared with 37 percent with much trust and 42 percent with little trust in him last July.

The national administration's satisfaction rating dived to 45 percent in September from 41 percent in July; and its dissatisfaction rating to 33 percent in September, from 34 percent in July. Public satisfaction in the performance of key institutions marked a decline, although it remained positive. Net satisfaction with the Senate fell from +28 to +4 percent, and with the House of Representatives, from +21 to +4. Net satisfaction with the Supreme Court fell from +33 to +16.

The larger drop of net satisfaction with the Senate (22 percentage points), compared with that of the House (17 percentage points) may be accounted for by the disarray in the Senate over the election of the Senate president and in the organization of its committees. The Senate was also engulfed in a wave of investigations involving its new member, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has been charged by the Philippine National Police and the armed forces intelligence with alleged money laundering and drug trafficking.

The survey yields clues on sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the Macapagal administration. Respondents were predominantly satisfied with: (1) promoting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers; (2) helping the poor; (3) setting a good example of morality in the public service; and (4) developing livelihood opportunities for ordinary citizens. These findings suggest that the President's first State of the Nation Address in July, which spelled out poverty alleviation and employment programs directed at the urban poor may have given these programs the benefit of the doubt and a chance to be fulfilled.

But the respondents were predominantly dissatisfied with the administration's performance in (according to the following order of seriousness): (1) resolving the hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf; (2) fighting inflation; (3) eradicating graft and corruption; (4) fighting drug addiction; (5) fighting crime; (6) promoting autonomy for Muslims in Mindanao; (7) ensuring that medicines are affordable; (8) reconciling with Muslim rebels; and (9) promoting foreign investment.

The last survey was taken during a period when scandals of corruption broke out over the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, in the presidential veto of the telecommunication franchise bills, and in the midst of the slowdown of the American, European and Japanese economies—which constitute the main markets of Philippine exports. These countries are also the main source of investment in the country. Although President Macapagal came off unscathed from the scandal over the franchise bill, which she vetoed, Mike Arroyo has remained a magnet of allegations of irregularities.

The political instability in the Philippines, attributed to the unrest over the criminal trial of Estrada on the charges of plunder and illegal use of alias, and the atmosphere of scandal-mongering in the legislature have exacted a heavy toll for the Philippines in terms of loss of confidence in its ability to rebound from the general worldwide economic slowdown.

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have scaled down Philippine economic growth forecasts for 2001 and 2002. With a government that is increasingly coming under fire from the opposition for alleged irregular transactions, Ms Macapagal's best defense is to deliver economic results. The odds are stacked against her.

No need for 'saling pusa' alarms

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE should be so lucky. If someone were to send us a letter laced with anthrax powder, it would have to reach us first. If it wasn't opened beforehand by our friends at the Philpost, that is.

Maybe there IS a silver lining to the scary events of the day. And that could be an end to mail pilferage, which has become so commonplace a problem nobody complains much about it anymore because a solution seemed hopelessly beyond the ken and caring of authorities. Should we thank the terrorists for putting the fear of anthrax in our larcenous postal employees, and thereby securing our mail?

The current fuss being made about the Philippines becoming a possible target for bio-terrorists is certainly laced with irony. For even as the media fill pages and airtime with health tips on how to deal with any number of possible biological and chemical weaponry, we're overlooking very real and more immediate bio-hazards in our midst.

Anthrax may attack the lungs and impair breathing, but that's already been accomplished by the alarming levels of air pollution in Metro Manila and other urban centers. Doctors have been sounding the alarm for years about the growing number of children and older people being rushed to hospitals in respiratory distress, and the spreading incidence of asthma and other respiratory diseases.

And yet, though the Clean Air Act was supposed to pave the way for clearing up the air we breathe, little political will seems to have been expended toward getting rid of the primary sources of pollution—vehicle exhaust and industrial effluence. As someone noted, if terrorists piloting hijacked planes ever tried to ram into office buildings in Makati, they would have gotten lost in the soupy smog that hovers over the area most days.

* * *

USE gas masks to protect ourselves from airborne organisms? Fuhgetabahtit. For decades, but especially in the last few years, the oxygen we take into our lungs has been fouled not just by noxious gases, but by all sorts of germs and bugs floating away from mounds of garbage in open dumps.

And we don't even have to travel far to inhale the organisms cooking within mountains of garbage. Just travel along major and minor thoroughfares in the metropolis, and you would pass by hundreds of small and large garbage dumps, with a telltale screen of flies buzzing above them.

Environmentalists staunchly resist the use of incinerators to burn garbage, arguing the fumes could contain poisonous gases, the byproducts of decaying garbage. But these gases already permeate the air, rising from the spontaneous combustion created through fermentation in the heart of the garbage mountains.

No need to worry about the Abu Sayyaf pouring gasoline or poisons on our water sources. We've long contaminated our water table with toxins leaching from garbage dumps like Payatas or even the so-called sanitary landfills like in San Mateo or the proposed site in Rodriguez.

So let's not scare ourselves with *saling pusa* fears of being drawn into the worldwide scare regarding bio-terrorism. There's enough to worry about on our plate, without need to imagine even more grim scenarios.

* * *

IT'S hard enough trying to convince the Christian majority not to rush to judgement on our Muslim brothers and sisters, without having to be treated to the sight of the good folks of Marawi proclaiming Osama bin Laden as "not a terrorist but a hero!"

True, the footage look suspiciously like staged "*pang*-media" events. But staged or spontaneous, it was disturbing, to say the least, to hear those angry young men declaring their intention to fly to Afghanistan to help the Taliban and Bin Laden's forces.

I found especially distasteful the scene with two middle-aged men urging on a small group of veiled young women to shout slogans in support of Bin Laden and the Taliban. Aaargh! Didn't anyone among the young women wonder what kind of life they would lead if indeed they were to live in Afghanistan under Taliban rule?

It may be unfair to make a wholesale judgment on the Filipino Muslim community from a few minutes of TV footage, which in itself may have spurred the particularly fervid reactions. But I do hope responsible Muslim leaders will make an effort to counter the impressions created by the interviews, and assert anew that they abhor terrorism as much as any other Filipino, Muslim, Christian or any other faith.

* * *

I HOPE I'm wrong, but the militancy emanating from Marawi and even Manila seems motivated as much by politics as by the fervor of faith. The rhetoric sounds suspiciously newly minted, timed to ride on the wave of fellow-feeling triggered by the bombing of Afghanistan and the calls for "jihad" in its wake.

Are we simply lulling ourselves when we say this is not a "war of religion," that persons of reason and moderation on all sides will ultimately prevail? I was quite taken aback, for instance, when a Muslim congressman, taking part in the show "Debate with Mare and Pare," argued that the Taliban are "supported by the majority of Afghanistans." Supported? By the majority? Why, then have millions of Afghans been trying to flee the country, willing to endure the horrific conditions of refugee camps rather than return to their homes? And how to explain the vicious fighting that erupted as soon as the Soviet forces abandoned the battlegrounds?

Many readers, I'm sure, caught "Beneath the Veil," a documentary on life under the Taliban made by a daring woman journalist. Among the most arresting footage was of the executions conducted, with pomp and pageantry, in the football stadium. Would a regime freely and wholeheartedly supported by the populace have to make a big public spectacle of executions? I don't think so.

I think it's time the Filipino Muslim leadership, religious and civil, spoke out before the extreme images and messages of the past few days be taken as representing their entire community.

The story behind street names

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN A MORE enlightened age, people honored their streets with the names of heroes and historical events. Street names are in place to help us remember significant events and people in Philippine history and culture. But because street names are so common, these are taken for granted. People actually forget or ignore the story behind street names and I wouldn't be surprised if someone will lose the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" jackpot if asked about the man behind Edsa. Epifanio de los Santos Avenue is the longest street in Metro Manila yet few people know about "Don Panyong" the historian, patriot, journalist, director of the National Library and, according to contemporaries, the best guitar player of his time, second only to Antonio Luna.

I was told that Edsa was originally planned in sections named after Filipino historians. Since the most prominent historians of their time like Encarnacion Alzona, Teodoro A. Agoncillo and Horacio de la Costa, S.J. were alive and ineligible for this honor, a short-list of dead historians was drawn. Then, living historians were asked to comment on the list that was whittled down further until the only survivor was "Don Panyong," leaving us and history with a street we fondly call Edsa today. I presume Teodoro M. Kalaw, journalist, historian, member of the Philippine Assembly, interior secretary, and like Don Panyong, director of the National Library, was in the running too, but then wasn't the National Library already on T. M. Kalaw Street in Manila?

It's a pity that despite all the books and articles Kalaw wrote on history, law, masonry, etc., he is best remembered by common people merely as a point of reference in the maze of Manila jeepney routes. Being a man of his age, a man who lived through the tailend of the Spanish era and the beginning of the American one, he wrote mostly in Spanish, thus his work has become inaccessible to a new generation separated from their history and literature because of language. We were cut off from our roots because of language. Over the years Kalaw's books have been translated from the original Spanish into English and Filipino: "The Philippine Revolution," "Five Concepts of Our Ancient Morality"; his autobiography "Aide-de-camp to Freedom," etc. The most recent is "Spiritual Register" translated by Nick Joaquin.

As a historian I had read Kalaw's works on the revolution, Gregorio del Pilar, the Malolos Constitution and masonry while ignoring his esoteric writings on law. For my area of specialization I have turned again and again to the precious compilations of Jose Rizal's letters, the "Epistolario Rizalino," and those of Mabini, "Cartas politicas de Apolinario Mabini," compiled under his direction. Thus, when I was given Kalaw's "Dietario Espiritual," translated by Nick Joaquin into "Spiritual Register," I saw another side of Kalaw I did not know before. My first reaction was to ask why Kalaw would write a devotional work. I wanted to ignore the book too but then one must not judge a book by its title or cover. This book, now available to modern readers, is a compilation from Kalaw's newspaper column "Mi Pagina Diaria (My Daily Page)" that appeared in La Vanguardia from 1926-1927. Surprisingly, it was a delight to read.

I never knew Kalaw as a journalist except for his being one of the main characters in the landmark El Renacimiento libel case. In 1908 the paper ran an anti-imperialist editorial by Fidel Reyes, "Aves de Rapiña (Birds of Prey)" that prompted Interior Secretary Dean Worcester to sue for libel. Kalaw was dragged in because he was editor of the paper, so was Martin Ocampo (no relation), the publisher. To cut a long, exciting story short, the case took years to resolve, proving that the wheels of justice grind slowly indeed. The paper closed down and its assets sold off. Kalaw was sentenced to prison but was pardoned by Governor-General F.B. Harrison, another name best remembered as a Pasay street.

Kalaw's fate has always been at the back of my mind together with an editor's advice early in my career "that truth is not a shield against libel." I was led to believe that a libel suit is a badge of courage and that this did not prosper. Till I read about Kalaw, I thought no Filipino journalist had ever been convicted of libel which accounts for our press being described as the most lively in Asia.

Contrary to its title, "Spiritual Register" is not a religious work and I hope it will be filed properly in bookstores where I once found Bienvenido Santos' "Praying Man" and F. Sionil Jose's "Sins" beside Bibles and devotional works. Here, Kalaw expresses his opinion on a wide range of topics—nostalgia for the past, children, politics, gossip-mongering and even how to fight insomnia. The language is quite dated but the essays are not. It may seem amazing that by changing some references to time, place and people, Kalaw's opinions of 1926 can be printed in the op-ed page of our newspapers today and still be relevant and timely. This means that we have not changed very much as a nation and a people in the past 75 years! Why has this come about? Because we have not read or heeded the words of our historians and journalists.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Me and my lady teachers

HIGH BLOOD

Pio P. Frago

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

MY English professor, the late NVM Gonzalez, National Artist for Literature, once said that "reminiscences are for the old." I may not be that old but I love to reminisce—of beautiful places I visited, of good movies I've seen and more importantly, of people who touched my life.

My mother died of an unknown illness a few months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. I was still being breastfed (powdered milk was scarce) and I had to be nursed by my mother's younger sister whose daughter was about my age. Being just an infant then, I cannot yet recall my mother's face. I can only say she was beautiful from her black and white photographs, and these seldom lie. In my young heart, I could feel the void, the loss of my mother's warmth and care which fate stole from me. The real cause of her death is unknown until today because just like many others, she "died without seeing a doctor." Going to town where the doctors were at that time was dangerous due to the presence of Japanese soldiers. My father performed the dual role of being a father and a mother to us, four siblings, with patience, love and dedication. He remarried only, for companionship perhaps, many years later when I was already a lawyer.

When I started my primary school after the Liberation, my teacher was a beautiful lady. She was tall and fair-skinned. To me, everything she said was gospel truth. My teacher could never be wrong. Even at a young age, I could feel my teacher would be a perfect wife and a good mother. To please her, I did everything. I cleaned her table, brought flowers every day (multi-petal gumamela, yellow bell and giant santan—I could not afford roses). More importantly, I studied very hard and became No. 1 in her class. I was thinking of my teacher day and night. I also wished that every day was a class day. I hated Saturdays and Sundays because I would be missing my teacher. How I wanted to court her for my father (remember "Sleepless in Seattle"?). Having missed my biological mother, I found a mother image in my teacher. I learned later that she immigrated to the United States but she remained single. I am grateful to her and I loved her for giving me the inspiration that enabled me to graduate with honors in my elementary school.

When I entered high school, I was still fortunate to have many female mentors. My teacher in English literature reminded me of my Grade I teacher. She was also very beautiful, medium-built and willowy. I could still remember her standing by classroom door with her silhouette drawn by the rays of the afternoon sun. She was wearing a white eyelet, see-through were it not for the lining underneath. She was emotionally reading Longfellow's "Evangeline." My high school days were indeed happy and memorable—I belonged to the "top three" when I graduated. I owed this to my lovely female mentors whom I admired and loved.

Enrolling at the University of the Philippines College of Liberal Arts (now split into three, i.e., CSSP-College of Social Sciences and Philosophy; CAL-College of Arts and Letters; CS-College of Science) as an entrance scholar, I still had the fortune of having many lovely female teachers. I maintained a college scholarship, thanks to the guidance and inspiration given by my female teachers, including their female teaching assistants.

My entry in the UP College of Law was entirely different. There were only three female faculty members. My good fortune was over. I am not saying though that male faculty members were not inspiring—but I got good grades under female mentors, and I loved the latter. Our professors were justices of the Court of Appeals, judges of CFIs (now RTC) and brilliant practicing lawyers of Metro Manila. But I still longed for my female mentors in the elementary, high school and pre-law years.

I got married shortly before the first quarter storm. SP Lopez was then president of UP. I admired Lopez for being cheerful and avuncular. To me, he was the best president of UP. He is my idol. He and Maria Luna Lopez have two daughters (Rosemarie and Laura). Following my idol, my wife (who, to me, is more beautiful now than when I married her more than 30 years ago) and I have two daughters too—one is teaching at UP CSSP and the other is a fellow in pediatrics at the PGH. I am the only man in the house—but I am not outvoted. Decisions are always made on the basis of trust, love and understanding.

Reminiscing all these, I think the above title should be changed to "I love women."

Pio P. Frago, 61, is a retired director of the University of the Philippines Human Resource Development Office.

Bin Laden uses Kashmir issue to rally Muslim support

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shaun Tandon

NEW DELHI—The demand by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network that the United States stop supporting Hindus in Kashmir was a new strategy to rally Muslim and particularly Pakistani opinion against US-led strikes on Afghanistan, analysts here said Monday.

"They may be trying to appeal to Muslims all around the world to enlist their support, as they now feel threatened," said Zafarul Islam Khan, editor of Milli Gazette, a Muslim-oriented newspaper based in Delhi.

"This would only embarrass the Pakistani government," he said.

Bin Laden's al-Qaida, the Afghanistan-based network accused of being behind the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, raised the Hindu issue in a weekend warning of more suicide aircraft attacks.

The message, broadcast by the Qatar-based Arabic satellite network al-Jazeera, reiterated the three main themes of al-Qaida: an end to US backing for "Jews in Palestine," lifting the economic embargo on Iraq and a withdrawal troops from Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's two holiest shrines.

After reading the three demands, Bin Laden aide Suleiman Abu Ghaith added a fourth that Washington and London must "stop your support of the Hindus against the Muslims in Kashmir."

India has already rejected al-Qaida's threats, with a foreign ministry statement saying Kashmir "is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. It is the core of India's nationhood."

But analysts say the reference to Kashmir, [illegible] disputed Himalayan territory that rouses deep passions in Pakistan [illegible] India, is likely part of a strategy to expand protests against Pakistani President P[illegible] Musharraf, a vital US ally in the strikes on Afghanistan.

Counterterrorism expert Ajai Sahni said that while Bin Laden has championed the Kashmiri cause in the past, the new emphasis on the conflict in India's only Muslim-majority state is intended to "whip up as much street support as possible."

"It doesn't matter if this is just a few hundred protesters everywhere (in the Muslim world), it is more to create an illusion of a unified Islamic world and response," he said.

"That is what is worrying to strategic observers, particularly in America."

Sahni, executive director of the Institute for Conflict Management, said al-Qaida could try to take advantage of the vacuum created when Pakistan distanced itself from its blanket support for Kashmiri separatists by describing an Oct. 1 suicide bombing as "an act of terrorism."

They will want to show themselves "as the primary warriors or instrumentalities who are opposing such 'oppressive' policies," said Sahni.

More than 35,000 people have been killed since an Islamic insurgency broke out in 1989 in Kashmir, the focal point of two wars between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan.

Tensions between the two countries have been rising during the US-led war on terrorism as India pushes Washington to expand the battle to include Pakistani-supported Islamic separatists fighting in Kashmir. *AFP*

The isms that rend our world

IF Moses, Jesus Christ and Mohammed were to board a flight at the Ronald Reagan Airport in New York, they would all be denied boarding for being Arab-looking. They would then be searched and promptly detained for questioning as suspected terrorists. This brings into focus the irony of the situation the world is in, when the founders of its three biggest religions would be similarly and shabbily treated in a major city.

It is more ironic that religion has been used as an excuse for executions, ethnic cleansing and mass murders throughout the world's history. Thus the Jews' holy wars in the Old Testament, the Christians' Crusades and Inquisition in the Middle Ages, and the Muslims' jihads have ravaged the world even until now. The Jews divided the world into Jew and Gentile, the Christians into pagans and Christians, and the Muslims into the true believers and the infidels. The one and the same God that these religions profess to worship is conveniently used as an excuse for acts of barbarity that man commits against his fellowman.

Religion becomes a destructive force when it espouses triumphalism—it believes it is the only true religion and superior to all the others; exclusivism—only its members can be saved; and anti-feminism. The three great religions have been guilty of these isms in the course of world history to a greater or lesser extent, and millions of innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims have been slaughtered as a result. The killings continue even until now in the World Trade Center tragedy, the bombing of Afghanistan, the Catholic-Protestant feud in Ireland, the ethnic cleansing in Europe, and the Abu Sayyaf banditry in Mindanao, to mention some.

While religion may not be the cause for these killings, it is invoked as the inspiration and excuse. To the extent that religion will mature and transcend the above narrow isms, it will be to that extent that world peace, unity and progress can be attained. All calls for unity, brotherhood of all men, fatherhood of one God, etc., will ring hollow for as long as these isms lurk in our minds. It is in this context that true and sincere dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims can take place, and that a lasting solution can be attained to the present terrorism the world is facing.—**SAMUEL YAP, 2 Verbena, Doña Manuela, Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City**

Why Filipino movies flop

PHILIPPINE cinema is going bust. Its market continues to fall and the movie industry has been putting the blame on the government for not responding to its needs for certain favorable tax and regulatory policies. The entertainment sector and a large segment of the public have shared the same mainstream sentiments against the government's alleged lack of support for the development of the local movie industry. Parties largely lay the blame on high entertainment taxes, unwarranted government interventions on the Movie, Television, Review and Classification Board ratings, the explosion of piracy in the market, and to some extent, the people's mentality toward foreign motion pictures, which leave Filipino movie productions virtually outrivaled.

But this has not always been the case. The key to foreign films' comparative advantage is their overall quality. Why do you think foreign movies like "Jurassic Park," "Independence Day," or "Pearl Harbor" sell like hotcakes in the market? Simple. It's because they represent original, differentiated and interesting films. In contrast, Filipino movies are second-rate and there are a number of reasons why. Here are some good points why Filipino movies flop:

- If they are not copied from some foreign concept or idea, they are very monotonous.
- Filipino films tend to involve the same idea of vengeance or revenge in any type of movie whether action, comedy, drama, etc.
- They are generally predictable, inconsistent and often pointless.
- They are usually portrayed by the same old, cyclical and annoying characters.
- Their viewers appeal almost always springs from the artists involved, and not from the movie's story itself.
- The titles are frequently clichés, unappealing or incoherent.
- The central concept is vague and essentially mundane which many people don't understand.
- The production and special effects obviously stand out, simulated from other elements or the layout which make it look like a cartoon.
- Advertising is unimpressive.

These are only a few of the many reasons why Filipino movies are outsold by foreign films in the local market and overseas. It is not so much of a political or social matter, but more of a technical challenge.—**NADINE DUMLAO, scintillajuris @yahoo.com**

Medicare benefits raised twice in 1999

THIS is in reaction to the letter sent by Jose M. Pastorin Jr. last Oct. 13, 2001.

We would like to inform Pastorin that in 1999, we increased the Medicare benefit package twice which subsequently equalized the benefit packages being implemented at that time for all three sectors, namely government-employed, private-employed and indigent members. This increase effectively pushed the support value of the Medicare package by as much as 70 percent, a feat that has never been experienced by members who had to contend with the 5 to 10-percent support value for so long.

With the increase in benefits, an increase in premium contributions was therefore inevitable, not only to sustain the program but more importantly, to correct the regressive contribution structure that has been followed by members over a period of time. This was imperative to ensure that those receiving higher wages and salaries are rightfully paying more for the program compared to those receiving lower wages.

We believe that the NHIP premium is the lowest in the health care industry and yet the benefit package that it offers is comparable to what private health insurers offer to their members.—**LINDA B. LAURETA, manager, Corporate Communications Office, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., Rm. 1705, Citystate Centre, Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Regional Trial Court Judge Amalia F. Dy of Branch 213, Mandaluyong City recently sentenced Mrs. Evelyn Ignacio Ocampo residing at Room No. 301 Court Felicidad Condominium, 501 Wack Wack Road, Mandaluyong City for the crime of ESTAFA.

Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo was sentenced to suffer the penalty of seventeen (17) years, four (4) months and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of Reclusion Temporal in its maximum and is ordered to pay the complainant the amount of P400,000.00 plus legal interest.

An Alias Warrant of Arrest was issued against Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo and no bail was recommended for her temporary release by Judge Amalia F. Dy.

Any person who has any information leading to the early arrest of Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo can notify the nearest Police Station, the Chief PNP, Camp Crame, Quezon City, the Director N.B.I., Manila or call tel. no. 722-8107

(PDI—Oct. 17, 2001)

More realistic household composting

I APPRECIATE the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's effort to educate the public about waste segregation through television. That ditty *"hiwalay kung hiwalay"* is really cute. Waste segregation might be even translated as *"diborsiyo ng mga basura."* However I find MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos' demonstration of how composting can be done at home quite lacking and impractical. In that advertisement, he used a huge steel drum as a composter. He should have demonstrated more specifically how to utilize such contraption—like you should punch holes on it (to aerate the microbes), water the compost periodically and cover the drum to contain the stink.

I have been composting our household waste and I find that a smaller bin is more practical and manageable (not to mention, space-saving). The best composter is a *"kaing"* (that large woven basket used by fruit vendors). I bought a plastic version of the *kaing* which I keep in our dirty kitchen. It has proven to be an effective waste-buster. As a result, the total volume of our household waste has been reduced to almost half. And if the garbage truck does not come for several days, I don't have to worry about stinky, rotting stuff. When I first tried composting, we just had to endure the unpleasant smell for a few days. Once the first layer is decomposed, it seems that it absorbs the smell of the succeeding batch of waste even if it includes some fish trimmings. A friend (an environmental science teacher) suggested that we could avoid the smell by covering the first batch of organic waste with a layer of soil and by covering the bin itself. She also suggested that it should be periodically aerated and watered to keep the microbes alive.

What the members of my family find so amazing about our simple and crude composter is that we have been using the same bin (which is only about two and a half feet in length and diameter) daily for three months now but it doesn't get full. Apparently it has bred high performing, wriggly microbes that quickly consume everything we put on it, including corn husks and pomelo peelings. Maybe in one more month, the decomposed materials will be ready to enrich our garden soil.

Had I decided to use that large steel drum as advertised on TV, it might take a year before I can use the compost. By that time, the drum would be ugly, rusty and an additional waste to be disposed.

I found that one key success factor in household waste segregation and composting is how we educate our household members. I had to use color-coded trashcans for biodegradable and non-biodegradable stuff. I had to show to each of the members of my family how to dispose the trash properly. After some practice and corrections, people can learn the habit. This is what our families need to see—that segregation of waste and backyard composting are indeed doable. They need to see on TV real experiences of families, not artificial contraptions and mere exhortations from our politicians.—**CHED ARZADON, chedarz@ digitelone.com**

Knowing Philippine history and culture

THE PROPOSED millennium curriculum of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is a very good development. It is only right that basic subjects will be given emphasis.

However, I totally disagree with the idea of merging Social Studies or History with all the other subjects. When I was in elementary school, I used to hate Social Studies because I regarded it as a useless subject where students were made to simply memorize the names of people and places. However, now that I am 21, I regret that I did not take it seriously. It was too late to get interested in the subject when I was already in college because I had other major subjects to concentrate on. Cramming allowed me to retain only a little of the colorful past that is my heritage as a Filipino. When I went to another country and saw how different they were from us, I wanted so much to share with them some nuances of who we are but I wasn't able to say much.

Knowing your history and your own culture is like rooting yourself in the land you grew up in. This is very important, I now realize. Whatever it is that we are now is a continuation of everything that happened and is happening. It gives us a more defined perception of our identity. For example, it pays to know how humane Jose Rizal was during his time. It is good to know how Filipinos lived in the past and understand the series of developments that led to what we are now and clearly see why we have such varying values and attitudes toward things that are unique from that of other countries. We are a very interesting people and we want the youth to realize and to value their rich Filipino heritage.

Maybe one of the reasons we are burdened by a colonial mentality is that we are not so proud of being Filipino, and the reason for this is that we forget that even before foreign influences came, Filipinos already had something. We wore nice clothes. We had our own skills. We had our own system of living and governance, our own developed culture. We have so much to be proud of especially now that our culture and history are a rich blend of what make us uniquely Filipino and all the other cultures that have come to us from near and far, in the past and in the present. Every Filipino must be aware of that.—**RIANNE PICAR, rascha_rhys@ mail city. com**

Maynilad gambled and lost

THIS is a rejoinder to the Oct. 4, 2001 letter of Salvador G. Tirona, CFO of the Maynilad Water Services Inc.

The issue here is plain and simple, as follows:

Should we allow the Maynilad Water Service Inc. to pass on to its consumers the forex losses it incurred as a result of its financial and management decision?

Although the forex loans may have already been contracted by the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System, Maynilad is fully aware of the pros and cons of foreign loans. It entered into the concession agreement with this knowledge. Maynilad has the option of either converting the foreign loans to peso loans or reduce the debt through equity infusion. Or it could have hedged the foreign exchange risk through various hedging instruments and schemes. It gambled on the foreign exchange risk in exchange for lower interest rates and they lost. This financial and management decision was solely the prerogative of Maynilad and it lost its bets.

Why should the consumers be penalized for the forex losses of Maynilad? If the forex rates moved to the other direction, Maynilad would have pocketed the forex gains.

Maynilad gambled and lost and it must shoulder these losses.—**VICTOR M. ENDAYA, 9 Cliff Drive, Blue Ridge A, Quezon City**

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The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

Musharraf: Pakistan will back US action to the end

A NORTHERN Alliance soldier runs during exchanges of fire on the front line near Zarkamar town in Afghanistan's north Oct. 15. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's support for US military action in Afghanistan will continue for as long as the campaign lasts, President Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday after talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Musharraf said his government had made a decision of principle to support the coalition against terrorism and to allow the use of its airspace and provide intelligence and logistical support for US action against the Taliban regime.

"To this extent we will certainly carry on cooperating as long as the operation lasts," he told a press conference.

He said Pakistan believed the campaign should be "short and targeted," but said the Taliban only had themselves to blame for defying the international community and refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden.

Musharraf said he had agreed with Powell the two countries would work together to develop and strengthen their cooperation in all areas.

He reiterated Pakistan's shock at the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington and its determination to help "bring the perpetrators, the organizers and the sponsors of the terrorist attacks to justice."

He said Afghanistan's Taliban rulers could have saved their people from US air strikes by complying with UN Security Council resolutions calling on them to hand over Bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the attacks on the United States, but had chosen not to.

Musharraf said he had also told Powell the current campaign had to address the root causes of terrorism which, he said, lay in "political oppression and the denial of justice."

"In order to achieve peace, the current war on terrorism must address its root causes." *AFP*

Hawking: Man doomed without space colonies

LONDON—The human race is likely to be wiped out by a doomsday virus before this millennium is out unless it starts to colonize space, top British scientist Stephen Hawking warned on Tuesday.

Hawking's comments came as the United States teetered on the brink of panic over possible germ warfare after anthrax-laced letters were delivered in the capital Washington and the states of New York, Nevada and Florida.

"I don't think the human race will survive the next thousand years unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet," Hawking told Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Hawking, Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University in England, said Armageddon threatened not in the form of a Cold War-style nuclear holocaust but could arrive in a more insidious and invisible form.

"In the long term, I am more worried about biology. Nuclear weapons need large facilities, but genetic engineering can be done in a small lab. You can't regulate every lab in the world," he said.

Investigators have not pinned down who is behind the US anthrax attacks, but fears are growing they could be retaliation for US military strikes against Afghanistan, which followed last month's suicide attacks on New York and Washington.

Hawking, a leading theoretical physicists who hit the best-seller lists with his book "A Brief History of Time," said the chances of humanity pulling through looked good.

A Star Trek-style "warp drive" might be one way to relieve the tedium of lengthy journeys between stars in spacecraft travelling below the speed of light, Hawking said.

"I am an optimist. We will reach out to the stars," he said. *Reuters*

Jordan helps thwart attacks on embassies

AMMAN—Jordan on Tuesday said it has helped Lebanon foil recently a series of attacks on Arab, US and British embassies in Beirut ordered by a group allegedly linked to terror mastermind Osama Bin Laden.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the attacks were ordered by Osbat al-Ansar, a Lebanon-based Palestinian movement named by US President George W. Bush as one of the 27 targets in his anti-terrorist war.

"Attacks were due to take place against several Arab embassies in Beirut, including the Jordanian one, as well as the embassies of the United States and Britain," the official said.

Jordanian security services, in coordination with their Lebanese counterparts, "succeeded a few days ago in foiling these attacks, which had been ordered by Osbat al-Ansar," the official said.

The targeted Arab embassies "are part of the international coalition against terrorism" led by the United States following the September 11 airborne suicide attacks on New York and Washington, he added.

"Security has been stepped up around all Jordanian embassies abroad as well as the embassies of the other Arab countries targeted," the official added.

A Lebanese security official in Beirut denied the report but confirmed the arrest of two members of the outlawed group.

Judicial sources in Beirut said earlier that the pair were arrested recently in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli for "planning terrorist acts, illegal dealing in weapons of war and discharging firearms."

According to the Jordanian official, Amman has arrested a month ago "dozens of Islamists who have links with Bin Laden's networks or who have been trained in Afghanistan." *AFP*

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RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	1998 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	78,729	1,702	2	2	9	0	9
3	PRUDENTIAL OF AMERICA*	U.S.	34,427	1,106	6	3	7	0	8
4	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	33,677	1,459	3	4	6	1	3
5	METROPOLITAN LIFE*	U.S.	26,735	1,343	5	5	5	1	7

2000

22 INSURANCE: LIFE, HEALTH (STOCK) 18 COMPANIES

RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	1999 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	87,646	2,156	2	2	8	0	10
3	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,723	872	8	2	13	0	9
4	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	42,220	877	7	2	11	0	12
5	CNP ASSURANCES	FRANCE	26,803	464	11	2	12	0	11

2001

22 INSURANCE: LIFE, HEALTH (STOCK) 18 COMPANIES

RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	2000 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	92,782	3,608	2	4	6	1	7
3	CGNU	BRITAIN	61,499	(2,597)	18	(4)	18	(1)	18
4	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,333	1,313	4	2	12	1	9
5	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	43,126	1,043	5	2	13	0	13

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Apec to hunt terror funds, act to safeguard oil supplies

SHANGHAI—Asia-Pacific leaders will condemn the terror attacks against the United States at a summit this weekend, pledge to toughen controls on terrorist funds and act to safeguard oil supplies in a crisis, according to a proposed declaration.

"Leaders unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001 as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation," the proposed declaration said.

The draft document was fine-tuned by senior officials of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum here Tuesday before being submitted to ministers and leaders of the 21-member grouping.

US President George W. Bush arrives later in the week for bilateral meetings and the weekend summit. He is expected to use the largest gathering of international leaders since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington to shore up the global coalition in his war against terrorism.

"Leaders deem it imperative to strengthen international cooperation at all levels and affirm that UN should play a major role in this regard," the proposed declaration distributed to Apec member economies said.

The Chinese hosts of Apec have been calling for United Nations involvement in the US-led campaign against terrorism, which has seen Washington launch air raids on Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

"The (Sept. 11) attacks are also a direct attack on Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies," the draft said, while expressing leaders' condolences to relatives of the estimated 5,500 victims who died in the United States.

The leaders would commit to trying to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, the draft said.

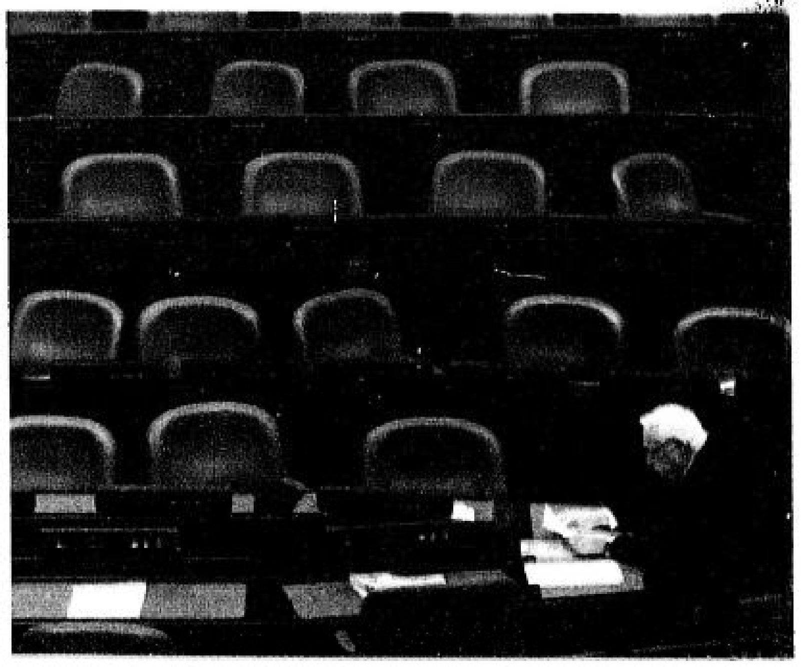
They would call for an early signing and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and pledge to step up Apec action against money laundering.

Leaders would also pledge to cooperate to ensure aviation security and strengthen the security of oil and natural gas supplies "in the case of an emergency."

The draft was put together by the Chinese hosts with US support, delegates said.

China was behind the counter-terrorism statement with "the US putting pressure" for it to be endorsed by all the Apec members, despite some unease over the strikes on Afghanistan, said an Indonesian official.

Indonesia and Malaysia, both Muslim-majority members of Apec, have called for the US-led strikes to stop. But Indonesia backed the thrust of the proposed declaration, the official said. *AFP*



ISRAEL Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sits alone in the Knesset before the opening of the winter session Oct. 15. A vehemently anti-Arab, far-right bloc resigned on Monday from Sharon's broad coalition, saying it opposed lifting sanctions against the Palestinians. The resignation of the seven-seat National Union and Yisrael Beitenu bloc, effective in 48 hours, turns Sharon's government into mostly centrist coalition with 76 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

REUTERS

Worst rains in 100 years kill 114 in N. Korea

BEIJING—Torrential rains which inundated eastern provinces of North Korea late last week, killing up to 114 people, were the worst local people knew of for a century, United Nations relief agencies said Tuesday.

During a 12-hour period from midnight to midday last Wednesday, an average of 380 mm of rain fell in the province of Kangwon, UN relief agencies in the famine-struck nation said.

The usual average for Kangwon in all October is only around 25 mm, said a statement by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the country.

Brendan McDonald of the OCHA in North Korea said Tuesday the latest figures compiled showed 81 people had died in floods in Kangwon province, with 27 more missing and more than 11,000 left homeless.

In South Hamyong province, also badly affected by the rains, there were another six people reported missing, he added.

Gerald Bourke, a spokesperson for the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Beijing, who viewed flooded areas late last week, said it was obvious the rains caused great devastation.

"There is an awful lot of damage, people were saying that there hadn't been rain like that in the area for about a century," he said. *AFP*

Breakthrough seen as West pushes for Mideast peace

JERUSALEM—Chances for a breakthrough in the Middle East grew Tuesday after calls by Britain, France, Ireland, Jordan and the United States to capitalize on a drop in violence and push for a lasting peace.

As Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat won backing Monday from British Prime Minister Tony Blair for a Palestinian state, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced the fallout of his dual approach of liquidating militants while bowing to US pressure to make peace.

"We both recognize that this is a time to act with new resolve," Blair said with a smiling Arafat at his side in London.

Stressing the need for a "viable" Palestinian state, Blair urged a "just peace in which Israelis and Palestinians live side by side . . . putting behind them the bitterness of the past."

The comment was seen as a signal that Israel should cede more land in the negotiations to reach a peace deal.

Arafat called on the Israeli government to join the negotiations "so we can reach a just and lasting solution to all issues on the agenda."

He also restated his condemnation of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, saying: "We are against all forms of terrorism including state-sponsored terrorism."

He repeated his calls for an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, alongside the Jewish state.

"We have asked for the application of the UN resolutions" calling for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, Arafat said. "We're not asking for the moon."

In a telephone call, Sharon urged his British counterpart later in the day to pressure Arafat to fight the radicals in his camp, Israeli radio reported.

"Yasser Arafat's promises are not enough, actions are needed on the ground," Sharon reportedly replied to comments from Blair that the Palestinian leader had committed himself to lower the level of violence.

The year-long Palestinian uprising, aimed at Israeli military occupation and creeping Jewish settlement of land seized in the 1967 Middle East war, has so far cost 875 lives, including 676 Palestinians and 176 Israelis.

Sharon and Blair agreed to meet in London in the next few weeks, Downing Street said.

French President Jacques Chirac and King Abdullah II of Jordan met in Paris Monday, agreeing on the urgent need to restore the peace process.

Abdullah underscored the need to take a two-pronged approach that would include "recognition of the principle of Palestinian statehood and guarantees of security for the state of Israel."

"Now is the time for real steps in the peace process," said Chirac who noted that US President George W. Bush was signaling a new willingness to engage in the peace process. *AFP*

Even at 100, Lady driver won't quit

LONDON—One of Britain's oldest drivers is raring to get back behind the wheel of her brand new car despite having her first crash—at age 100.

Scottish charity worker Lady Morton enjoyed 74 years of trouble free driving before hitting a traffic island when she went for a spin in her 100th birthday present—a new car complete with personalized number-plates.

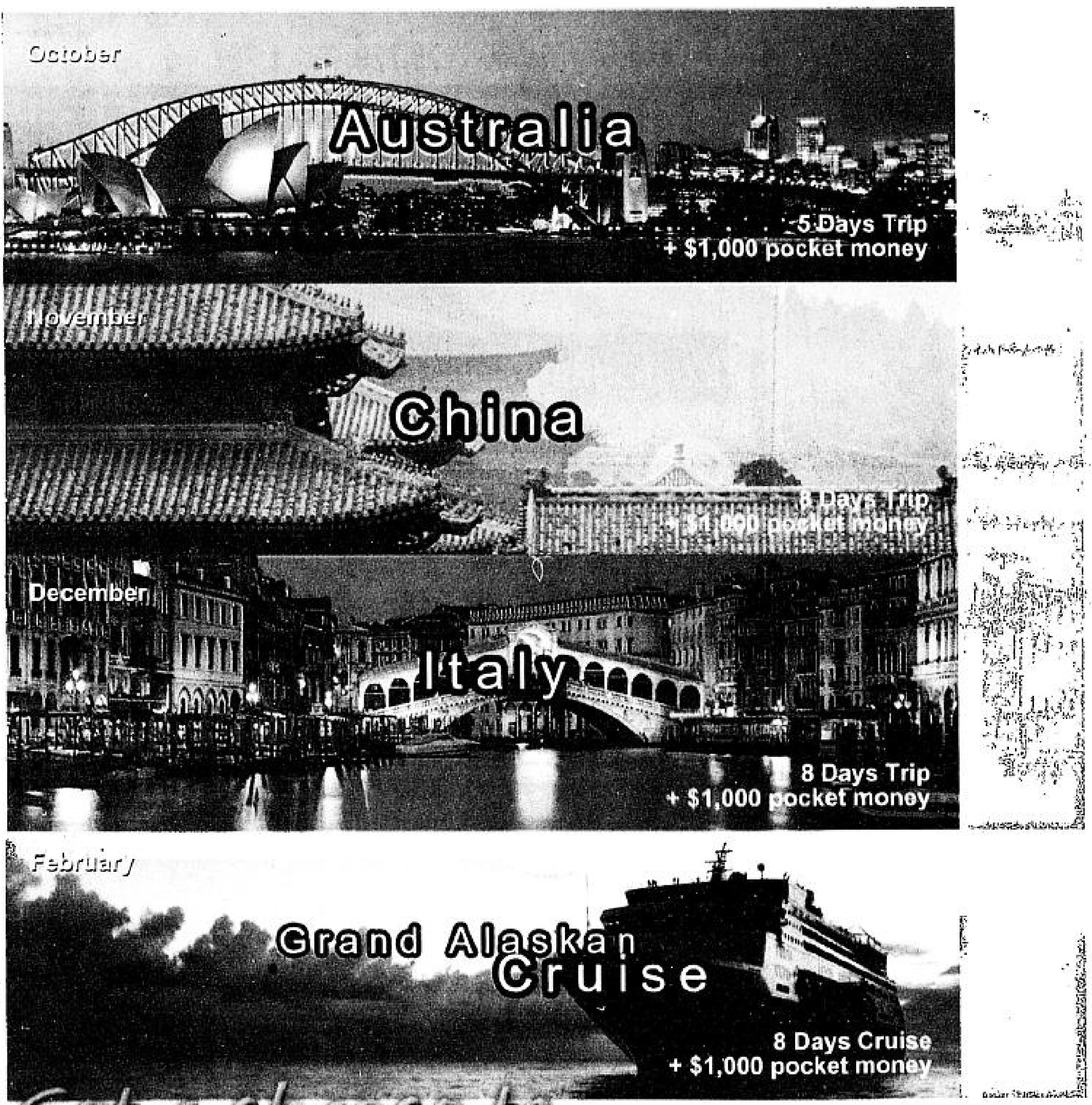
"It had no lighting, which I think is ridiculous. But I am all right, thank you very much," she told The Times newspaper on Tuesday.

"I was not going very fast and it is all a bit unfortunate."

The centenarian, a well-known Scottish socialite, said she bought her first car in 1927. She never sat a driving test but took to the road "like a duck to water," she said.

Lady Morton told the paper she had no intention of giving up driving after the accident, or at any time in the near future.

"Some people are just born to drive and I think I am one of those." *Reuters*



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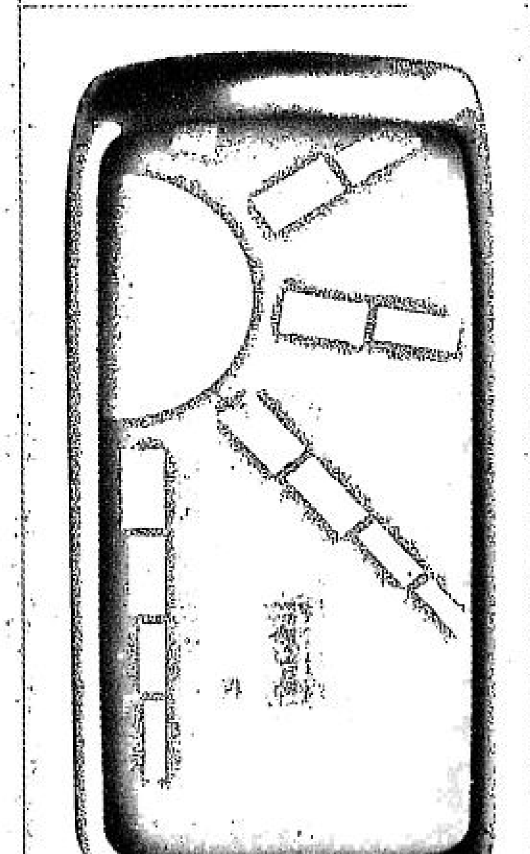

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India-Pakistan border quiet after gunfire exchanges

SRINAGAR, India—An uneasy calm prevailed early Tuesday over the de facto India-Pakistan border in Kashmir after a night of heavy gunfire exchanges that India says killed 11 Muslim militants.

Indian troops fired on the Pakistani positions just as US Secretary of State Colin Powell began a visit to Islamabad and New Delhi, unlikely partners in Washington's "anti-terrorism coalition."

The United States, hoping not to complicate its military strikes against alleged terrorist networks in Afghanistan, urged the newly nuclear South Asian rivals to show restraint.

The exchange of fire along a 195-km stretch of the Line of Control between the Paharpore and Chicken Neck areas was "one of the heaviest in recent months," a defense source said.

The intense fire sparked panic among residents, many of them running for underground bunkers. Skirmishes in the past have made Kashmiris flee the border areas.

"The firing stopped in the morning hours on Tuesday," another defense official said.

The official said tensions were "running very high" Tuesday morning along both the International Border and the Line of Control, the de facto border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Defense officials said 11 Islamic guerrillas were killed when Indian gunners attacked at least 11 Pakistani posts across the border of Indian-administered Kashmir, breaking weeks of relative peace across the disputed Himalayan border.

Pakistan said one woman was killed and 25 civilians injured in the attacks and demanded New Delhi halt its "state-sponsored terrorism."

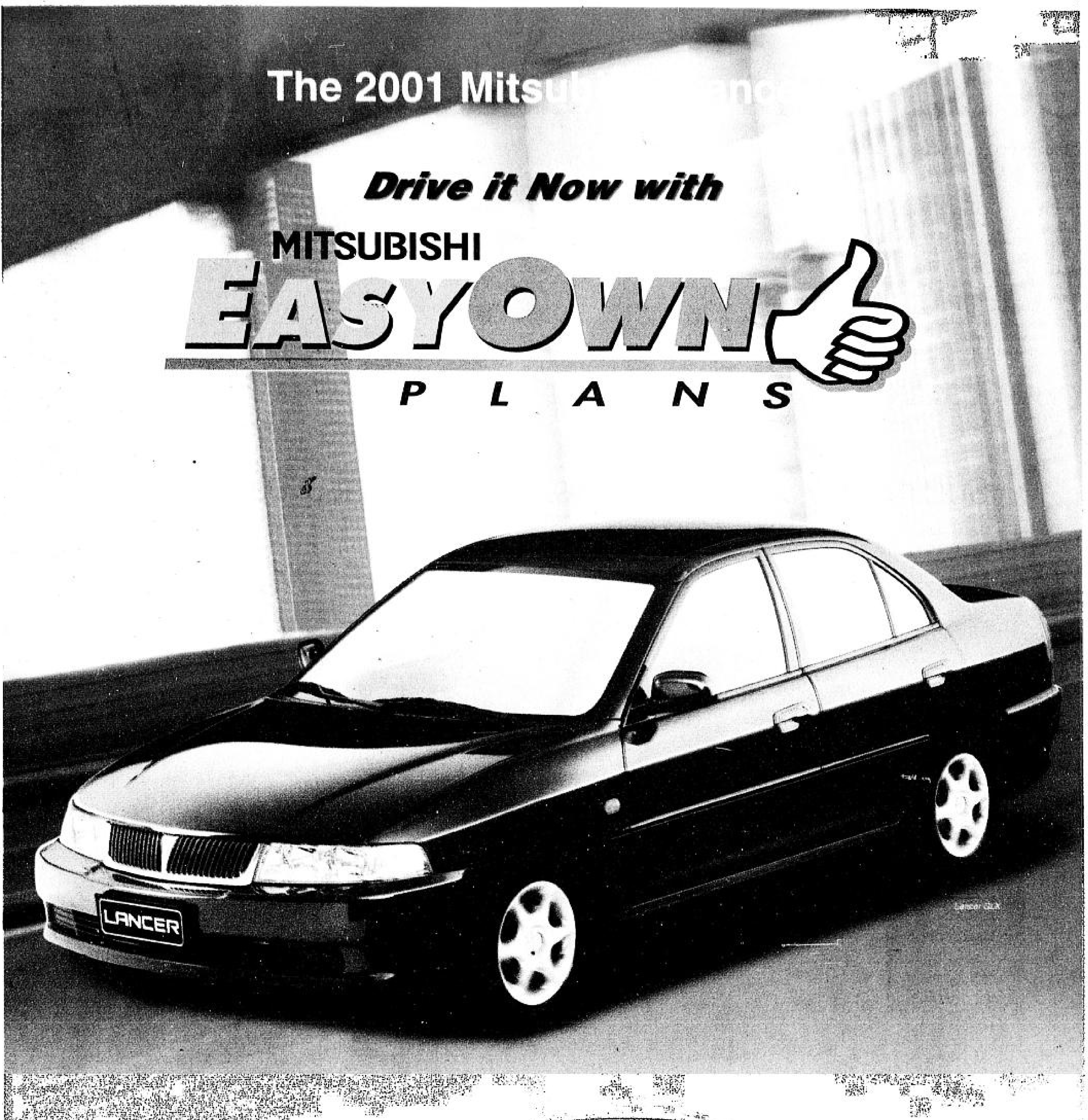
"It's high time the world and the United States declare India a state which sponsors terrorism. The firing was totally unjustified and they were clearly trying to kill civilians," military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi said late Monday. *AFP*

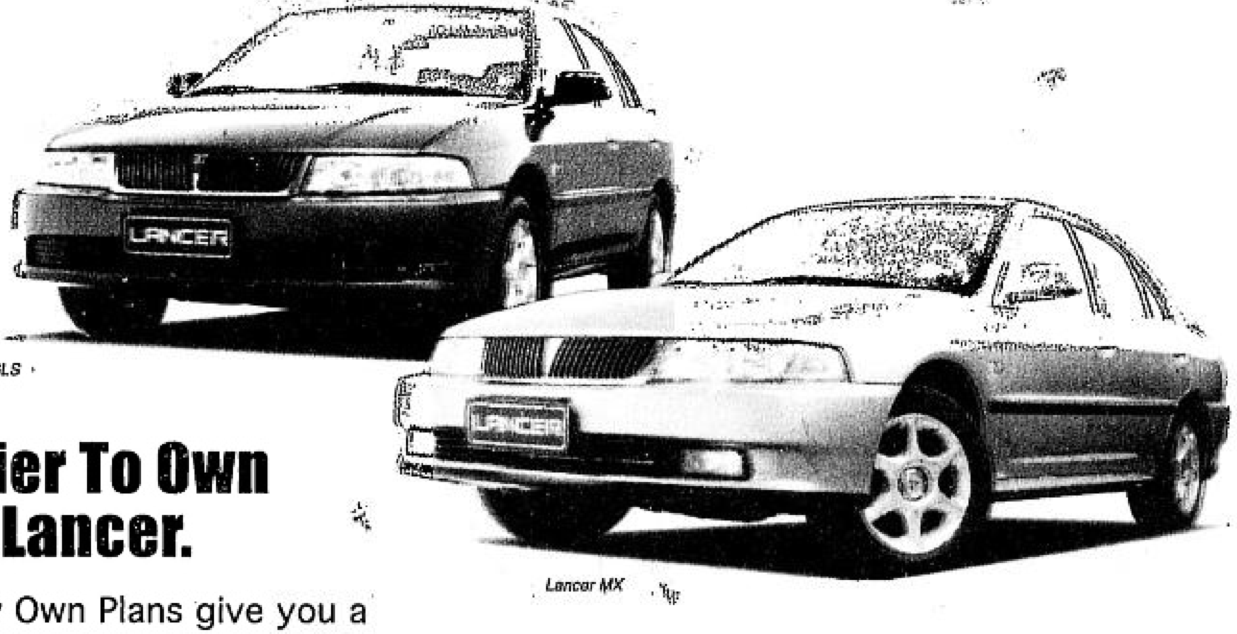
Concorde flights on Nov. 7

PARIS—Fifteen months after the Concorde was grounded because of a deadly crash, Air France and British Airways are resuming flights to New York City—a decision Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called "symbolic of how all New Yorkers feel about rebuilding this great city."

The sleek, needle-nosed aircraft—revamped to address safety concerns after the July 25, 2000 crash that killed 113 people—will return to the skies on Nov. 7, the companies announced Monday. Air France clients can begin booking tickets on Monday, while reservations at British Airways were to start on Tuesday.

Both carriers said the decision reflected confidence about the industry's ability to overcome the crisis stemming from the Sept. 11 attacks. They also pledged solidarity with New York, the US destination on the supersonic route. *AP*





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GLS A/T	715,000		51,915	35,924	28,645	20,568	16,580	15,016

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'DRUG LORD'

Cebu trader on watch list

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
AND CONNIE E. FERNANDEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Bureau of Immigration has placed under its watch-list businessman Peter Lim to prevent him from leaving the country pending investigation on his alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo issued an order on Sunday directing BI personnel in Cebu to be on alert and stop Lim in case he leaves through the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

The order was prompted by a request of the House committee on dangerous drugs headed by Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, according to alien control officer Casimiro Madarang III.

The House committee is investigating the extent of the illegal drug problem in the country.

Peter and his brother Willy were tagged as drug lords by two of their former aides during a committee hearing held here on Saturday.

Peter and Willy strongly denied the charges and planned to file charges against the two for maligning them.

"I am not a drug lord. There is no truth to the allegation that I am involved in illegal drugs," Peter told the INQUIRER on Monday.

Ananias Dy, Peter's former bodyguard, and Bernard Liu, former manager of Willy's Love City nightclub, claimed the Lim brothers had been involved in illegal drug activities.

Liu claimed he accompanied Willy in Hong Kong at least three times between 1989 and 1996, where they got their supply of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) that were brought directly to Cebu via the (MCIA).

At one instance, he said, they transported some 10 kilos of shabu to Cebu.

Liu said that when they went through the Mactan and Hong Kong airports, authorities never searched their baggage. Their baggage never went through the X-ray machines in both airports, he added.

Peter owns the Hilton Heavy Equipment, a leading supplier of heavy equipment in Cebu. Willy operates several nightclubs in Cebu, including Infinity KTV and Cities Music Lounge.

Peter has been rumored to be a suspected drug lord in Cebu since 1997, but police failed to supply evidence of his alleged illegal activities.

Willy said he was with his family when he went to Hong Kong with Liu.

"Why should I be the one to directly deliver the drugs to Hong Kong and put my family at risk? Besides, the airport in Hong Kong is very strict. There is no way for us to have delivered the drugs unnoticed," he told the INQUIRER.

Willy challenged Dy and Liu to give the committee at least three names to whom he

DRUG/A17

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 26° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Roy Leyesa, PDI Research/10/17/01

ROUNDUP

Guard vs guard

BACOLOD CITY—A security guard was killed while another was seriously wounded after both were shot by fellow guards in separate incidents here Friday. Norman Obregon, 36, of the PAX Security Agency and General Services security agency, was shot dead by Joselito Salarsa. Police said Salarsa shot Obregon after the latter called the attention of Salarsa for eating inside the barracks of the firms they were guarding. Salarsa fled after the incident. In another incident, a blue guard also shot another bank security guard. Edison Antiguera, 23, of this city, is fighting for his life at the Bacolod Doctors Hospital from a bullet wound in the head allegedly inflicted by Joven Berdigay of Tuguis Security Agency. Berdigay also fled.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Farmers drop complaint

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two farmers who survived an alleged attempt to kill them by an Army sergeant and eight paramilitary men on Aug. 1 have dropped their complaint against the suspects after a compromise agreement was reached. The victims, Donato Datahan and Paulino Jaojao, and the government troops agreed to shoulder the farmers' expenses for hospitalization and other damages. Capt. Roberto Salvio of the 15th Infantry Battalion said the militiamen were terminated on Oct. 1. A Sergeant Balaguitan has also been recommended for dismissal from the service, he said.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ex-cop nabbed

PALO, Leyte—A former police officer, the second most wanted criminal in Central Visayas, was arrested on Monday in Isabel, Leyte. Ex-PO3 Leo Suico, 40, of Sitio Saub, Barangay Makalit, Merida, Leyte, who was wanted for three murder cases in Cebu City, was arrested by members of the Eastern Visayas Intelligence and Investigation Division and the police special task group based in Camp Sergio Osmeña, Cebu City.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Violence vs women cases

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Eastern Visayas has reported a rise in cases of domestic violence against women in the region. It said cases involving abused and battered women increased from 20 in July to 44 last month. Most of the victims were from Leyte and Samar. All 44 victims underwent counseling and were assisted by social workers.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Counter-terrorism meet

TACLOBAN CITY—Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who is facing congressional investigation for the alleged military-Abu Sayyaf collusion in Basilan, left for Israel the other day for a seminar on counter-terrorism. Dominguez, now head of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, will return on the first week of November. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Vasquez, deputy head of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Panay, will take over as officer-in-charge.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Security guard slain

LAOAG CITY—A security guard was killed allegedly by a lone unidentified robber who broke into the office of a telecommunications firm here on Sunday night. Police discovered the body of Charito Layugan, 41, security guard of Smart Telecommunications Inc., on Monday morning. His body bore four stab wounds. Police said the robber took P596,545 cash from a portable vault and Layugan's .38 cal. revolver.

Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Wanted posters

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—Police have started posting "wanted posters" here to hasten the arrest of former Mayor Enrique Viudez, the principal suspect in the murder last year of former mayor Honorato Galvez. The posters carry Viudez's photograph with the words "Wanted for Murder." Police said the posters were also posted in public areas in Nueva Ecija and Pampanga. Last month, the regional trial court in Malolos town issued the warrant for Viudez's arrest. Information on the suspect's whereabouts can be relayed to the Bulacan police at telephone number (044) 764-1002.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Classrooms for Cordillera

SAGADA, Mt. Province—Education Secretary Raul Roco said the Department of Education would build 500 classrooms in the Cordillera and 500 more in other provinces covered by the Third Elementary Education Program (TEEP). Roco signed a memorandum of agreement here on Thursday with Mayor Thomas Killip on the TEEP-funded classrooms. The TEEP, funded by the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, has built more than P4 billion worth of classrooms in the country's 22 poorest provinces, including those in the Cordillera.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau in several schools in the town which will be used by th

Santiago, Parel, and Bancal. Five of these barangays are located in the heart of the town.

Most of the evacuees will be transported to several school sites in the Iba town proper which is 10 kilometers away from the danger zone.

According to Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, the residents will be transported by means of dumptrucks, mini buses, and Victory Liner buses. Pacholo Salan, Victory Liner branch manager for Olongapo and Zambales, said that he will lend 10 buses to the provincial government for the evacuation.

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esto of the Senate majority bloc supported Barber's view, stating that "there are no Senate rules preventing Lacson to take the witness stand."

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Bonifacio, Makati City Monday night.

The meeting was later on confirmed by Marine Commandant Major Gen. Lobrado Ladia who immediately expressed strong support to the President and to defend the Constitution against any military takeover.

Palace insiders claimed the President called for an impromptu command conference with key officials of the Philippine Marines where she
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1st ANNIVERSARY SALE

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4. The Raffle Draw will be held on October 24, 2001 at MC Home Depot - Ortigas in the presence of a DTI representative at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
5. A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize with the higher value shall be awarded to him/her.
6. All prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.
7. Winners will be notified by phone and registered mail. All prizes must be claimed at the Administration Office of MC Home Depot at 168 Ortigas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City with telephone number 636-6944 to 47.
8. To claim their prizes, winners must present the letter of notification from MC Home Depot, a valid ID (i.e.) passport, driver's license, SSS/TIN Card for verification purposes.
9. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall automatically be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.
10. Promo period is from October 12 to 21, 2001 only.
11. Employees of MC Home Depot, its suppliers, concessionaires and participating sponsors, its advertising agency including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are not allowed to join the promotion.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0302, Series of 2001

Grenade explosions rock port

COTABATO CITY—A series of grenade explosions rocked the largest seaport in the autonomous region early yesterday, but port authorities quickly rejected insinuations that terrorists with links to Osama bin Laden were behind the attacks.

No one was reported hurt.

Unidentified men hurled grenades at the office of the port manager and the building housing the power generator of the Polloc Port in Barangay Sarmiento in Parang, Maguindanao, according to Parang Councilor Gaudencio Teves.

Teves said some properties were damaged.

Carlito Dicay, port manager, said the possibility that terrorists were involved in the attacks was remote.

He said a controversy involving him and a colleague in the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) could be the most probable reason.

Dicay said he and Abunawas Ali were involved in a tug-of-war over the position of port manager.

A former regional director of the ARMM Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Dicay was appointed port manager by ARMM Legislative Assembly Speaker Alvares Isnaji, then the acting regional governor.

Ali claimed that he was recently appointed by ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari as port manager.

However, Dicay said he would relinquish his post only if Ali could present documents related to his appointment.

"You don't need to attack us with grenades. I will turn over the post if there's a legal basis," he said.

"If they want me out, I will go, but please don't use force because I will counter that with force," Dicay warned, indicating that the situation could worsen.

Both Dicay and Ali are high-ranking MNLF officials and have their own followers.

Police and military authorities deployed forces around the port to protect disembarking passengers of commercial vessels amid fears of more explosions.

Polloc Port, about 30 kilometers north of here, serves as the major hub for the movement of goods to and from the autonomous region and central Mindanao. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LIGHT MOMENT VALHANDUMON

These children try to hide their fear with smiles as they pose for journalists at the evacuation center in Kabunbata, Basilan. Their families left their village in Pangaraan where military operations are ongoing against the Abu Sayyaf.

UP-Visayas students oppose new curriculum

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Students of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) are protesting a plan to revise the general education program of the university, saying this would result in "optional nationalism" in one of the most liberal academic institutions in the country.

In a resolution, the 12-member UPV University Student Council (USC) called for a recall of the approval by the UPV University Council of the controversial Revitalized General Education Program (RGEP).

The USC represents around 6,500 students on campuses in Miag-ao town in Iloilo, and in the cities of Iloilo, Cebu and Tacloban.

The USC resolution said the administration failed to discuss the proposal and consult with the students.

"We believe the students' views should be considered in an issue that will directly affect us," said USC representative Bernice Vania Landoy.

The RGEP is a plan of the university administration to institute changes in the current general program, which requires undergraduate students to take a series of core courses from various disciplines before they enroll in major courses.

UP President Francisco Nemenzo, who was on an official visit to the UPV's main campus, 44 km south of Iloilo City, said the RGEP aimed to make the undergraduate curricula more flexible and less structured.

"The changes are necessary because the program has not been changed substantially since 1960," Nemenzo told the INQUIRER on Friday.

He said that under the RGEP, students would have the option to take subjects in three fields—humanities and languages, social sciences and philosophy, and mathematics.

Aside from the current subjects offered, Nemenzo said, new ones could be developed as substitute subjects like "Computer and Society" or "Philippine Dances."

But protesting students led by the League of Filipino Students, Samahan ng mga Mag-aaral at Kabataang Kababaihan, Student Christian Movement of the Philippines and Samasa Party Alliance said the plan would not solve the problems in the existing program.

They said it would instead pave the way for "optional nationalism" because "trendy" subjects will ease out those that are "essential in developing critical and nationalist thinking."

"Popular courses based on the demand of the world market shall be given merit over courses that enhance service and develop scientific and critical-mindedness among the students," a joint statement of the student groups said.

The plan has been approved by the University Councils of UPV, Los Baños and Baguio and is being deliberated in UP Diliman, UP Manila, UP Mindanao and UP Open University. Established in 1908, UP has nearly 40,000 students.

Nemenzo said the plan would be approved individually by the university's autonomous units and implemented upon the affirmation of the 13-member Board of Regents, the highest policy-making body of the university.

The UP General Education Movement (UP GEM), an alliance of students and teachers opposed to the RGEP in Diliman, is calling for a system-wide review, consultation and revision among teachers and students because the University Council is only composed of faculty members with the rank of assistant professor and higher.

Nemenzo, however, pointed out that "curricular matters are the preserve" of the University Council. "This is the most consulted program ever instituted in the university," he said.

Landoy said they would hold a campaign to recall the University Council approval at the start of the second semester.

UPV Chancellor Ida Siason said she has not received a formal communication from the USC to reconsider the decision of the University Council approving the RGEP on July 21. But she said she would welcome the students' position.

AFP, PNP officials to meet on counter-terrorism

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Top military and police officials in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera regions will meet tomorrow for a two-day internal security planning, including the drawing up a "more comprehensive counter-terrorism agenda."

"We will take stock of things, give more muscle and put plugs where there are gaps (in security)," Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, told the INQUIRER.

The security conference at the Nolcom's Cordillera Hall in Tarlac City will be the second held under Garcia's command.

The first was attended by officers of the Army's 7th Infantry Division and the Central Luzon police last August.

The memorandum reached in August was upgraded to consider terrorist threats following the Sept. 11 suicide attacks in the United States, Garcia said.

The memorandum between the 5th Infantry Division and police commands in the three Northern Luzon regions will include elements unique to the areas like tribal customs, he said.

Garcia said security measures for all Northern and Central Luzon provinces continued to be "enhanced" after the government committed Clark and Subic, former American military bases turned into special economic zones, to the efforts of the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition.

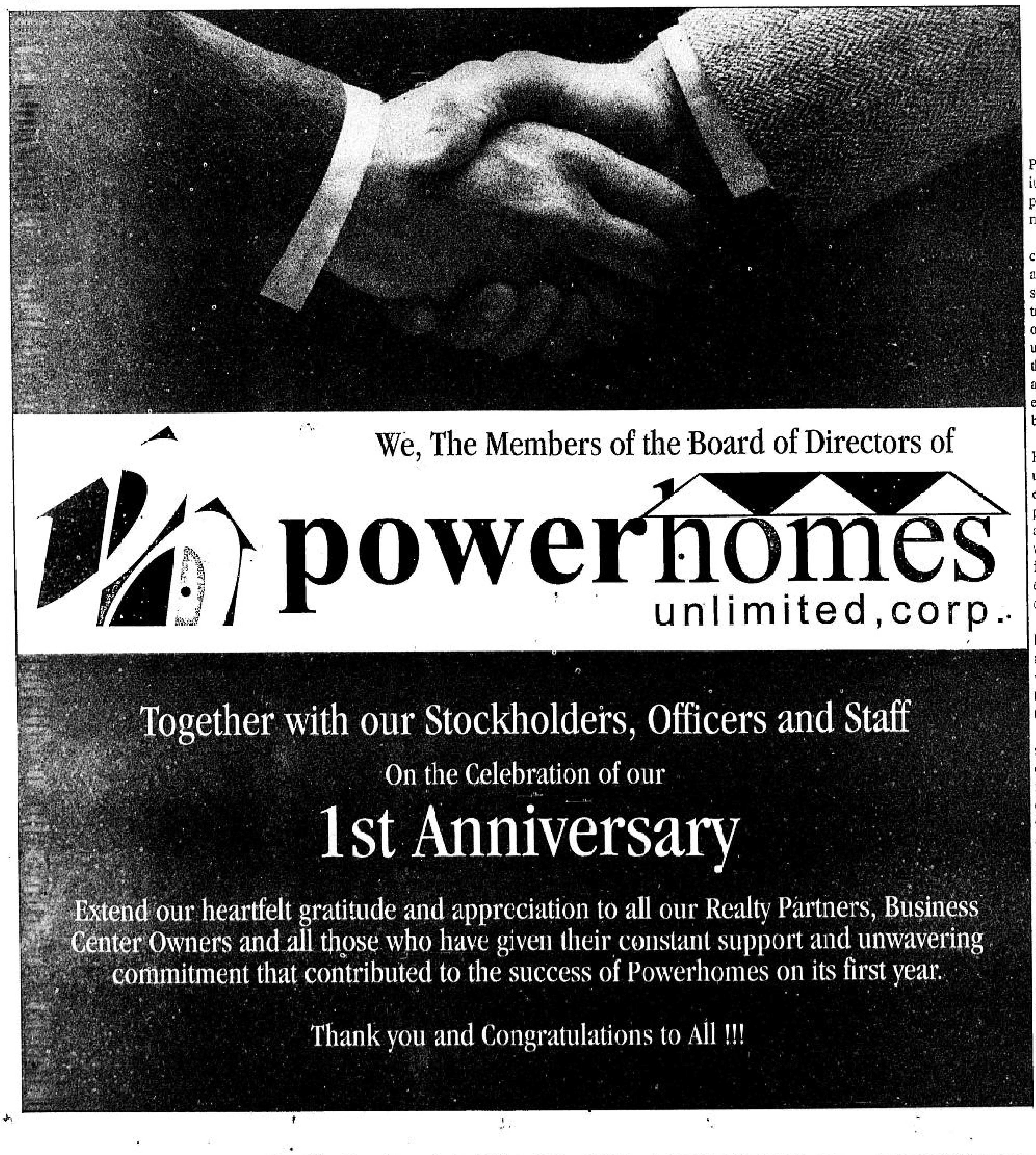
Asked on the vulnerability of Central and Northern Luzon to terrorist attacks, Garcia said: "We cannot play down the threats."

"It would only be prudent that we (do) not take things for granted and that we must assume that some evil minds have intentions of targeting vital installations," he said.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Garcia said the Army has "not monitored" the presence of foreign and local terrorist groups in any of the four regions.

He said Clark in Pampanga, Subic in Zambales, petroleum refineries in Bataan, power generation plants, dams and other facilities that lend very critical services to the civilian population and the business sector were "firmly secured and closely monitored."

"Security measures are in place and there are more deliberate efforts to enhance our troops' capabilities to avert terrorist attacks," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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Thank you and Congratulations to All !!!

POWER HOMES
CELEBRATES 1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Power Homes Unlimited Corp. will celebrate its first year anniversary today with a special presentation dedicated to its thousands of members throughout the archipelago.

The company's thousands of business center officers (BCO's), from as far as north as Baguio and Cagayan province to as down south as Cebu and Davao, have been invited to grace this momentous occasion. As a way of thanking the many BCO's for their unwavering support for Power Homes through thick and thin and for their attendance in said event, a special raffle draw exclusively for BCO's of Power Homes will be held. Exciting prizes will be at stake.

Business Center Owners of Power Homes are extremely excited at this upcoming event. Many of them have expressed their unequaled jubilation at the phenomenal success Power Homes has attained in only its first year of operations, with the company giving the financial freedom to its members and at the same time espousing the value of smart work and determination.

For many of the company's BCOs, Power Homes' unprecedented success can be attributed to the fact that despite the many vicious and unsavory derogatory remarks thrown against the company, it has continued to strive and grow at a skyrocketing pace.

In fact, the number of enrollees has since increased despite the consistent barrage of bad publicity the company is getting in all forms of media. Proof to this is the continuing influx of people at Power Homes' Ortigas office, trying to squeeze into phalanx of potential enrollees who are eager to become Power Homes BCOs and join many others achieve their dream of having their own house. The company has since weathered this tumultuous chapter in its existence and is looking forward to another fruitful year.

Power Homes Unlimited Corp.'s slam-bang first-year anniversary will be held at the spacious Ynares Center located in Antipolo City starting at 2 pm and will end at 9 pm.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Zambales to tap fuel from trash

THE ZAMBALES provincial government is keen on adopting a "safe technology" that uses local and Metro Manila garbage as sources of low-cost power for the province and income as well, Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II said.

Lacbain, in a press statement, said the biomass waste recycling method that the United States-based company Trimediators was popularizing could produce 200 megawatts of electricity from 2,000 tons of trash daily.

Alternative fuels, like ethanol and acetic acid, could be obtained from Trimediators' gassification method, he said.

Consumers stand to benefit because the electricity produced through this technology costs only P2.50 per kilowatt-hour, an amount that Lacbain deemed was much cheaper than the distribution rate currently charged by an electric cooperative in the province.

He said an income of $2,000 (P102,000) daily could be drawn from the project, which the provincial government intends to use for infrastructure and livelihood programs.

Because the province produces an average of only 300 tons of garbage daily, Lacbain said they were planning to source the remaining 1,700 tons from Metro Manila.

"In this case, Zambales can also help ease Metro Manila's problem on waste," he said.

Lacbain added that firms based at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, 72 km south of Iba town, are also being considered potential clients.

Early this year, the old Dizon Mines gold and copper pits in San Marcelino town were proposed as a landfill site for Manila Metro garbage. The provincial board, faced with strong opposition, did not endorse the project.

Safe technology

Greg Veloso, vice president of Trimediators, has assured the provincial board that the technology, which he said is common now in the US, is safe.

"Garbage would be transported through closed container vans. Hospital wastes would be excluded. The whole process of turning the rubbish into ethanol and its transfer to turbines is non-toxic. It does not also use incineration," Veloso said.

"Segregation of materials is also automatic because it has built-in machines or magnets that separate iron from the rest."

He added that his firm was committed to comply with the requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

All that the firm needs for its biomass recycling plant is 10 hectares of land, preferably in an unpopulated area, Veloso said. The firm utilizes remodeled machines used in making paper and pulp and other manufacturing activities.

Neither Lacbain nor Veloso indicated the total cost of the project. The vice governor did not say in the statement if the provincial government or the firm has scheduled public consultations on the project.

Lacbain said it was high time to shift from bunker oil and coal to alternative fuel to provide cheap electricity to residents.

He said the provincial government planned to enter into a build-operate-transfer agreement, which will give it a chance to own and run the plant after 25 years of use. *Tonette Orejas*

Drug

(From page A14)

allegedly gave the shabu.

"I bet he cannot give even one (name)," he said.

The Lim brothers said Liu and Dy had an axe to grind against them after they lost in an illegal dismissal complaint they filed against them with the National Labor Relations Commission.

Dy was dismissed after he reportedly mauled a co-worker at the Hilton in front of him and of the other employees last year, Peter said.

He said he gave Dy P120,000 in separation pay and other benefits. Yet, he added, Dy filed a case of illegal dismissal against him before the NLRC.

Liu, on the other hand, disappeared about three years ago after he failed to account for "millions of pesos" in cash, Willy said.

Liu only reappeared when Dy asked him to join in the labor case he filed before the NLRC, he added.

The NLRC also dismissed Liu's case because it was filed beyond the prescription period, he added.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina told the police to gather evidence of the alleged illegal drug activities of the Lim brothers so charges can be filed against them.

He said the police should not rely on the testimonies of Dy and Liu but should instead gather more pieces of evidence so the case can stand in court.

Supt. Vicente Loot, chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office, said other witnesses were being sought to corroborate Dy's and Liu's statements.

Episcopal wheel turns anew

BY FRANK CIMATU
Mt. Province

ASKED to describe the resort town of Sagada in Mt. Province in one word, one travel writer chose "Episcopalian."

Being Episcopalian will not normally draw in tourists but the quaint charm of Sagada—some said it was like Baguio City 50 years ago—indeed began 100 years ago.

"What we are today in our respective dioceses are the fruits of the seeds that were planted 100 years ago," said Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip.

"Our town and community, which hosted the First Centennial of the ECP (Episcopal Church of the Philippines), are the living testimony of the work and ministry of the Episcopal Church. I believe that consciously or subconsciously the majority of the people of Sagada regard the church as the greatest gift that was ever given to them throughout their existence."

On Oct. 11, 1901, the San Francisco General Convention in California made the Philippines a missionary district and installed Charles Henry Brent as the first bishop, and Reverends John Staunton Jr. and Walter Clapp as the first missionaries.

Brent rejected active proselytizing and adopted the not-putting-an-altar-over-another-altar policy for the overwhelmingly predominant Catholic country.

So the mission decided on the "fierce pagan tribes" of Cordillera and Mindanao, and the "unchurched" Chinese and Anglo-Saxons in Manila.

First church

The first church was St. Stephen in Manila.

In 1903, Clapp and Staunton made a survey of the Cordillera and fell in love with its cool climate.

Staunton built the Church of Resurrection in Baguio and in 1904, Clapp stayed in Bontoc where the warriors then had just collected more than 70 human heads in a tribal war.

Then Sagada beckoned.

Staunton arrived in town in September 1904 with an invitation from a Spanish soldier-turned-coffee grower, *Señor* Jaime Masferre (father of the late Cordillera photographer Eduardo Masferre). A month later, Staunton baptized his first Sagadan Episcopalian.

Killip said Staunton was tolerant of the pagan culture of Sagada and sometimes went to the *dapay* (village center) and observed the elders.

"The elders returned the favor and would also observe Staunton every Sunday at church," Killip said.

In 1907, Staunton started to build the St. Mary the Virgin Church with him operating the sawmill, shinglemill, lime kiln and charcoal pits.

Two years later, Clara Mears became the first teacher of the St. Mary's School.

On a trip back to the United States, Staunton was able to solicit funds for the building of the St. Theodore's Hospital.

Although the St. Mary the Virgin Church was bombed by the Americans in 1945, Sagada still has become quintessentially Episcopalian.

Bishop Joel Pachao, the young bishop of the Diocese of North Central Philippines, said the legacy of the Episcopalian mission is the building not only of the church but also of a school and a hospital in its jurisdictions.

"The church not only has to cultivate the spirit but also the mind and health of its parishioners," he said.

Fifty years after Staunton came to Sagada, a young lay missionary with a degree in Chinese language and the natural curiosity of a poet and historian came to Sagada.

He was William Henry Scott, who had since debunked many of Philippine history myths and became the pillar of Cordillera activism.

"Scotty (Scott's pet name) has become as much a tourist attraction as much as the caves and the pine trees (of Sagada)," Killip said during the historian's death in October 1993.

Because of Scott and the other teachers he and Staunton influenced, Sagada has been described as the "Athens of the Cordillera" because of its quality education. Of course, that was also said of other Episcopalian centers in the Cordillera, like Bontoc and Besao towns in Mt. Province and Balbalasang village in Balbalan town and Tabuk town, both in Kalinga.

Centennial site

Last Oct. 11, the Episcopalian Church returned the favor to Sagada, choosing it as site of its centennial celebrations.

About 10,000 Episcopalian/Anglicans came to Sagada from as far as Upi in Cotabato and Cawacawa in Jolo to celebrate the church's centennial.

Anglican priests from Hong Kong, Kowloon, Macau, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Hawaii, Japan and the United States also came.

Others who attended were representatives of the church's partners in mission, including the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Church of Sweden Mission, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Ecumenical Bishops Forum, World Council of Churches, Church Mission Society of United Kingdom and Australia, Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music (AILM), and Association of Theological Education in Southeast Asia.

If Episcopalian means being tolerant to changes like accepting women priests and intolerant to repression, then the Sagadans are indeed true to the word.

The first woman priest comes from Sagada. Many of those who resisted Marcos rule are Episcopalians like Scotty.

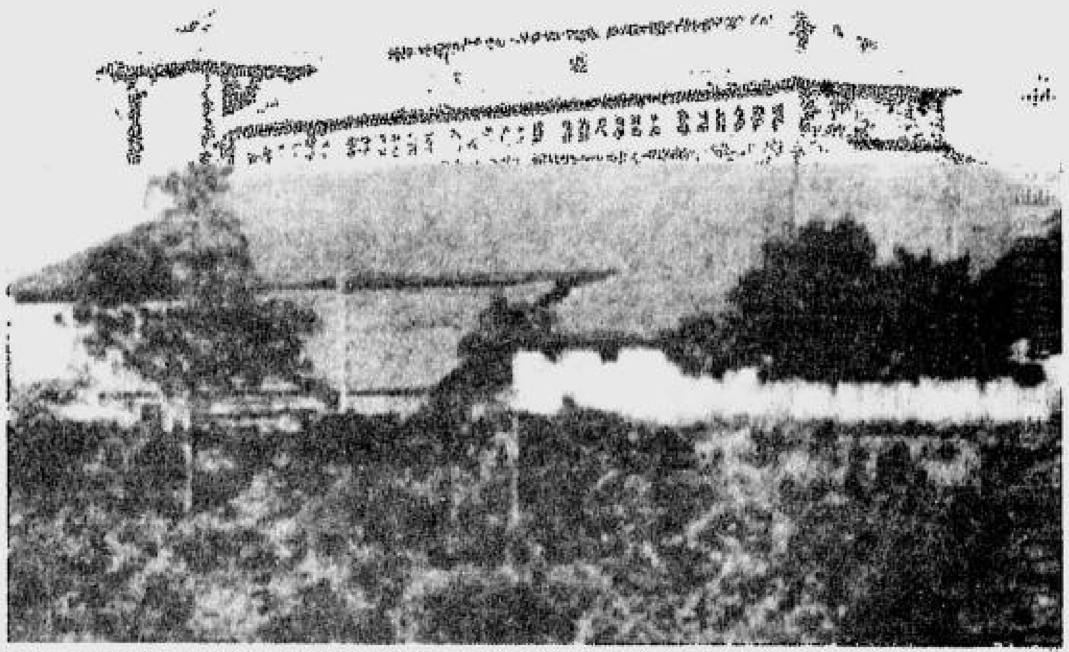
Even the underground Christians for National Liberation gave their greetings to the centennial.

Rev. Crispin Maglaya of the CNL-Cordillera said the ECP "has bloomed from an American cowboy culture to an independent social and fearless critic with a touch of activist spirituality."

The St. Mary's Church that day was full and its compound was crowded with the faithful lying on the ground cushioned by pine needles. Gangsa players played during the processional while drummers from the AILM greeted the people when the Mass ended.

At the culmination of the Mass, a marker was unveiled by Education Secretary Raul Roco, who "just happened" to be there.

The marker was the original wheel of the sawmill that Staunton used to build the church of Sagada. Not to lose on the symbolism, the church has gone full circle in Sagada.



THE ST. Mary the Virgin Church in Sagada, Mt. Province, an enduring symbol of the Episcopalian mission in the Cordillera.
PHOTO COURTESY OF E.R. ALCANTARA

What the Episcopal Church now are the fruits of the seeds that were planted 100 years ago

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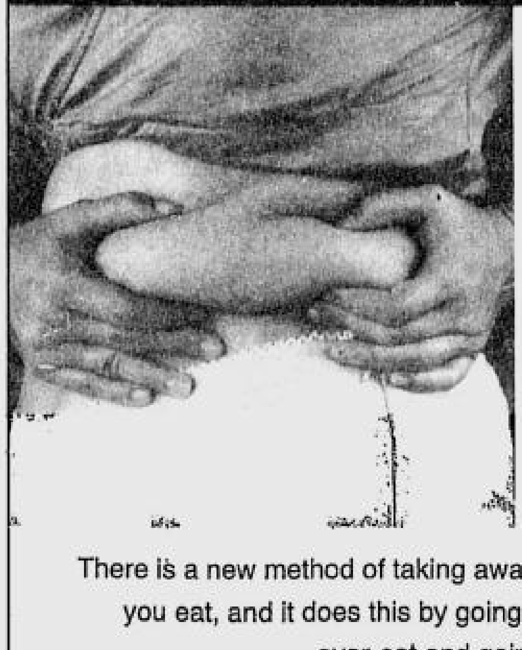

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Williamson DF, Pamuk E, Thun M et al. *Am J Epidemiol* 1995; 141 (12): 1128-1141
Colditz GA et al. *Ann Intern Med* 1995, 122 (7): 481-486

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RP now a major natural gas producer

(From page A1)

plant and the 1,000-mw Sta. Rita plant—which started using the gas two weeks ago. The three power plants represent a quarter of the country's total power needs.

Fears of energy crisis

The pipeline consortium, in which Shell and Texaco each own 45 percent and the government the rest, speeded up electricity sales from an original deadline of Jan. 1 next year, as attacks on the United States in September raised fears about future energy prices.

Ms Macapagal also listed measures that the government would promote for the development of the local natural gas industry.

- the construction of an onshore pipeline to bring the gas from Batangas to Manila, and eventually to Bataan;
- the conversion of certain existing National Power Corp. plants into gas-fired ones;
- the use of compressed natural gas for all public transport in the next two years, and
- the development for non-power uses of small gas fields, which has already been discovered and proven (laden with recoverable reserves).

Lower price

However, the President said the conversion of some power plants could only happen if the Malampaya consortium agreed to lower the price of gas compared to the price stated in the existing sales contract.

"Any drop in revenues from lower gas prices would be (significantly) offset by higher gas sales volume for additional gas power generation," she explained.

Similarly, the President said that the conversion of public vehicles was possible if gas prices were lower than diesel prices.

Moreover, Ms Macapagal said exploring the possibilities of importing natural gas in the future would do well to sustain the local industry if no new gas fields were developed.

"Malampaya's success, however, makes (us) hopeful that many things are still under our waters," she said.

The Malampaya gas field, with reserves estimated at 2.7 trillion cubic feet, is flowed 3 km beneath the seabed northwest of Palawan. It is then transported to the processing plant in Batangas City through a 504-km subsea pipeline.

Natural gas was discovered in Camago off northern Palawan in 1989. The nearby Malampaya gas field was discovered in 1992.

Filipino engineers

Ms Macapagal praised Filipino engineers and workers who took part in the construction of the Malampaya deep-water gas-to-power project.

"Our friends from the United Kingdom have been profuse with their praise for our engineers and workers, who are better than many of those they encountered in their long decades of experience around the world.

"Let us be proud of that," the President said.

Philip Watts, chair and managing director of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, said the project demonstrated Shell's commercial leadership, project management skills, and technological innovation.

In just over three years, a blueprint became a reality and the project was under budget and ahead of schedule, according to Watts.

Batangas-Manila pipeline

David Greer, the managing director of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., told reporters on Monday that the company was considering building a 100-km gas pipeline from Batangas to Manila.

The plan, which aims to develop the downstream potential of the natural gas market, also includes renovating an old power plant owned by the National Power Corp. to a new gas-fired plant capable of generating 600 mw.

The Batangas-Manila pipeline project would cost around $80 million while the gas-powered plant would entail some $600-million worth of new investments, he said.

In her speech, the President said several Japanese, Malaysian, European and Filipino firms had expressed interest in the project and invited them to form a consortium to bid for this and other onshore pipeline projects.

The Philippines, suffering from a growing budget deficit problem, is considering securitizing future earnings from the Malampaya project or selling the 10 percent stake.

The inauguration was tightly guarded with hundreds of police and security forces patrolling the complex, amid the heightened global alert against terrorism after the suicide attacks on United States and the US retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan.

The President was accompanied by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, Batangas City Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha, 2nd District Rep. Frank Perez, 1st District Rep. Aileen Ermita and local officials. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan and Reuters***

US lets loose special forces gunships

(From page A1)

ing the skies safe for aircraft like the AC-130. The Taliban are believed to still hold an unknown number of shoulder-fired Stinger missiles capable of bringing down aircraft, however.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, speaking at the Pentagon, suggested Monday that US air strikes could next start targeting Taliban frontline positions facing Afghan opposition fighters in the northeast.

"I suspect that in the period ahead that's not going to be a very safe place to be" for Taliban fighters, Rumsfeld said. "We hope to have improved targeting information in the period ahead.''

All-weather force

The anti-terrorist attacks will not end during Afghanistan's cold, snowy winter, the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, said.

"Let me just say that we have an all-weather force," he said. And visible and probably invisible things are going to happen off and on for a very long period of time."

Not exactly what neighboring Pakistan had in mind. With visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell beside him, Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf told a news conference on Tuesday that the military strikes should be "short and targeted."

Powell, who was in Pakistan Tuesday to shore up support for the US-led campaign against terrorism, said Afghanistan's Islamic regime was "under enormous pressure" but refused to say whether he thought it near collapse.

Multiple fronts hit

Tuesday's fresh waves of air strikes targeted the Taliban at multiple fronts—military bases and airports outside the capital of Kabul, the Taliban leaders' southern base city of Kandahar and the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

In mid-afternoon, two jets dropped five bombs on military targets in the Kheir Khana section of northern Kabul and two more bombs around the airport, raising a huge cloud of black smoke.

Taking advantage of the massive assaults, opposition forces on the ground claimed Monday to have advanced within kilometers of their former stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mazar-e-Sharif, the largest city in northern Afghanistan, is dominated by ethnic minority Uzbeks. The fundamentalist Taliban, who are Sunni Muslims and mostly Pashtun, captured the city in 1998 and have since ruled it with an iron hand.

Taking the city would enable the opposition to consolidate its grip on the small area it controls in the north, since the town controls routes running east to west and linking pockets of the Northern Alliance's strength.

Pakistan, which has agreed to lend logistical support for the campaign, has pressed for the US and British offensive to avoid directly helping opposition troops. Pakistan fears the Northern Alliance, its longtime opponent, will seize power from the Taliban.

Powell found himself struggling to calm tensions between Pakistan and India after new fighting in the disputed province of Kashmir.

The United States had been trying to head off just such a flare in hostilities between the longtime rivals, fearing they would distract key ally Pakistan for the campaign in Afghanistan.

The United States launched the air campaign Oct. 7 to root out Osama bin Laden—the top suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington—and to punish Afghanistan's rulers, the Taliban Islamic militia, who harbor him.

Particular targets

Aiming to make the skies safe, US forces have made particular targets out of airports in Taliban territory throughout the campaign. Attacks put the Jalalabad airport in eastern Afghanistan out of commission almost from the start.

Other strikes have pounded Taliban jets at Kabul and the sprawling airport complex at Kandahar, which holds at least 300 housing units of Bin Laden's followers.

The only other major airfields in Taliban territory, at Shindand in southwestern Afghanistan and in Herat, have also taken repeated strikes.

Taliban Information Ministry official Abdul Himat said 13 civilians died in the pre-dawn assault at Kandahar. The Taliban also said two people were killed in Tuesday's attack on Mazar-e-Sharif.

The claims could not be independently verified. ***AP***

Soviet scientists . . .

(From page A1)

But some research secretly continued in later years under the guise of defensive programs, says Ken Alibek, who defected to the United States in 1992 after serving as deputy head of the huge Biopreparat venture linked to germ warfare.

Kazakhstan, now an independent nation, angrily denied on Monday any connection between "American citizens' infection with anthrax and the possibility of the anthrax breed from Kazakhstan falling into the hands of extremists," and said it was meeting its commitments to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Fear continued to spread in the United States, however, with report after report of alleged anthrax cases. The confirmed incidents were serious enough: A second employee at a tabloid was diagnosed as having the dangerous inhaled form of anthrax, the 7-month-old child of a TV news employee was diagnosed with a lesser form of anthrax, and a letter sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle tested positive for anthrax spores.

The anthrax could have come from any of the nations that run suspected germ warfare programs: Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria among others. Russia has been cited as one potential source of some of their supplies.

US President George W. Bush said there might be a link between the cases and suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden—though there was no firm evidence.

Violated treaty

In 1972, Moscow joined the Biological Weapons Convention banning germ warfare. But officials later admitted that the country violated the treaty for 20 years, until then President Boris Yeltsin signed an April 1992 decree promising to comply with the convention.

Attention now is focusing on Kazakhstan, where a US military team helping to decommission a former Soviet biological weapons factory in Stepnogorsk found anthrax spores in a pipe last week, US Defense and State Department officials said.

That plant was built starting in 1982 to replace another Soviet factory in Yekaterinburg that accidentally released anthrax into the air in 1979, killing about 70 people. Former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, then the local Communist Party boss in the city that was known as Sverdlovsk, has said he did not know about the germ warfare facility at the time, pointing to a KGB cover-up.

A US intelligence report written in 1994 said Russia might have supplied biological warfare technology to North Korea and Iraq, two countries suspected of having stockpiled thousands of gallons of anthrax.

News reports have also said Russia was negotiating a multimillion-dollar deal to sell Iraq a huge fermentation tank that could be used to brew deadly germs. The Iraqi negotiators reportedly came from Al Hakam, a site where Iraq has admitted producing anthrax and botulinum toxin. Other reports have said that Iran has recruited former Soviet germ warfare scientists and at least some were asked to work on a biological weapons program.

Russia has strongly denied the accounts, saying most of the equipment for developing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program originated in Western Europe.

The United States has provided $20 million since 1994 to keep former Soviet germ warfare experts busy. Last year, the US administration proposed spending $220 million more to redirect the work of former germ warfare institutes, some of which remain shrouded in secrecy.

Inhaled anthrax

Health officials in Florida announced Monday that a Sun tabloid mailroom employee, Ernesto Blanco, was suffering from the dangerous inhalation type of anthrax, but that his health was improving. Blanco has been receiving treatment for anthrax since he was hospitalized earlier this month for what was then believed to be pneumonia.

In New York City, officials said Monday that the child of an ABC News producer was being treated for anthrax and was expected to recover. The anthrax diagnosed in the boy is the type absorbed through cuts or scratches in the skin. The child visited the ABC newsroom in New York on Sept. 28, though it was not clear if that was when the exposure occurred.

Police have also been investigating a letter that infected an NBC employee in New York last week. Authorities were planning to check for any exposure to anthrax at news media companies throughout New York, Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik told reporters on Monday.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urged caution, but stressed that there was no need to panic. "There's nothing to be afraid of," he said.

In Washington, D.C., authorities said a letter sent to Daschle, the highest-ranking member of the US Senate, was found to contain anthrax. There was no immediate word on whether anyone in the office was exposed to the bacteria. The letter to Daschle, like one sent to NBC News, was postmarked Trenton, New Jersey.

Bush told reporters "there may be some possible link" between the spate of anthrax incidents across the country and Osama bin Laden, who administration officials say was behind the Sept. 11 attacks. "I wouldn't put it past him, but we don't have any hard evidence," Bush said.

Global scare

In Jerusalem, two suspicious envelopes, one containing an unidentified white powder, were found at an Israeli newspaper office Tuesday, forcing an evacuation of the building. But the incident was quickly proven to be a prank, police said.

Yossi Zamir, a photographer with the Maariv newspaper and a witness, told Army radio that a note found inside the envelope was written in Hebrew and read, "Regards from Afghanistan."

In London, police warned Britons to be on their guard and watch their mail carefully.

"If people are suspicious of anything they have received in the mail or by hand they should contact police," a spokesperson for Scotland Yard said.

On Monday, the government's chief medical officer, Prof. Liam Donaldson, said the government has obtained the "necessary stores" of antibiotics and other equipment necessary to treat victims.

A section of Canada's Parliament was closed when a worker developed a rash after opening mail. In Germany on Monday, officials investigated a powdery substance found in the mailroom of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's offices.

In Paris, France, Health Minister Bernard Kouchner said yesterday that powder found in letters sent to at least four places in France was apparently harmless.

Kouchner asked citizens not to grow overly anxious about the situation. "Panic would be the ally of Bin Laden and his affiliates."

RP dirty money law 'passes' EU scrutiny

(From page A1)

mended the Philippines be removed—pending verification—from a "black list" of countries sanctioned from doing financial transactions with EU banks.

The Philippines has had some of the world's strictest banking secrecy laws and is considered a magnet for dirty money, including that bound for terrorist activities.

Anti-money laundering legislation recently passed by Nauru, which hosts some 400 offshore banks, was deemed by the FATF "to have several deficiencies and does not adequately address the major money laundering problem," said the draft.

FATF, said the draft, "therefore decided EU states should implement countermeasures against Nauru unless appropriate legislative amendments are enacted by Nov. 30."

It added that the countermeasures against the Philippines be suspended "pending verification" that the money laundering legislation "has in fact been enacted."

The ministers, according to the draft conclusions seen by the AFP, were also to include a ban on EU-based banks opening branches in blacklisted states, and an obligation for those banks to account for any large financial transactions with banks in blacklisted countries.

In that regard, the draft conclusions said FATF had recommended stringent requirements for identifying clients and beneficial owners before business relationships are established with individuals or companies from these countries.

The 15 EU member states had already reached an agreement in principle to identify and sanction non-cooperative countries and territories (NCCTs) in fighting money-laundering.

Anti-terrorism actions

"The council emphasizes the urgency of taking strong action against the financing of terrorism . . .," said the document, and ". . . to use the FATF mechanism for coordinated countermeasures against" countries "that harbor, support or provide safe havens to terrorists and their means of financing."

It also urged the 13 candidate countries awaiting EU membership, particularly Hungary, which is also on the non-cooperative nation list, to "fully implement" EU measures "on the fight against terrorism, money laundering and financial crime."

The NCCT list now includes the Cook Islands, Dominica, Egypt, Guatemala, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands, Myanmar (Burma), Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, the Philippines, Russia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Ukraine.

FATF enjoins its member states' financial institutions to "give special attention to business transactions with persons . . . companies and financial institutions of those countries. ***AFP***

Pinoy feeds US carrier's 5,500 crew

(From page A1)

crew on this floating fortress which is like a small city at sea, working 24 hours a day.

Chief Perry, who has surrounded himself with a "Filipino mafia" in the administrative area of the galleys, said he is already providing breakfast in the middle of the night for crew who get up to work the graveyard shift. Now he is trying to figure out how to give them dinner when everyone else is having breakfast.

"It's really hard to satisfy everybody," he said. "But if 10 people complain I still think we are doing a really good job. We do our best to take care of them."

Chief Perry tries to do that every day, but once in a while he gets to launch his own version of a lightning strike on the crews' stomachs.

120 truckloads of food

After the first resupply since the American bombing raids of Afghanistan began on Oct. 7, in the ship's immense main food freezer—1,022 square meters that can hold the contents of 120 truckloads of food at temperatures well below zero Fahrenheit—boxes of lobster tail and steak were piled up for a special dinner to celebrate the Navy's birthday, 226 years ago.

Just to top up its stores after almost 45 days at sea, the Vinson brought on board 4,536 kg of potatoes, 144,000 eggs, 6,000 gallons of milk as well as crates of fruit, vegetables and meat piled high in the hangar after being transferred from a supply ship steaming alongside.

For the celebration, a 600-portion "Happy Birthday Navy" cake was being covered with frosting in the kitchen, and Chief Perry said he was going to surprise everyone—even the hardened hands—with a special fried rice containing plenty of shrimp and vegetables.

The old days

Chief Petty Officer Lyn, who has spent 19 years in the United States Navy, remembers the days when the food on board was worse.

Veterans say the Navy used to have a form of dry powdered drink called bug juice—named after the worms that emerged in the powder, which had to be mixed with water, after a few weeks at sea.

"We'd drink it at chow (meal) time and then we'd put it in buckets to clean the fire hose nozzles," said 36-year-old Lyn of Sulphur, Louisiana.

These days, on this huge aircraft carrier launching bombing raids on Afghanistan from the northern Arabian Sea, the aim is to have plenty of quantity and variety—difficult as that is for a ship which may spend a month or two at sea between port calls.

The seven galleys, ranging from the exclusive admiral's mess to the two huge eating areas fore and aft for the enlisted men and women, are filled with the abundance of America—and of supply stations around the world.

The ship has soda machines dispensing everything from root beer to pink lemonade, coffee machines, milk dispensers and even an expensive cappuccino maker.

There are steam tables serving huge trays of spaghetti and meatballs—the favorite of many of the crew—as well as choices ranging from fish to beef to veal to chicken.

140 cooks

The 140 cooks on board will fry a hamburger or a grilled cheese sandwich, and there are taco bars, salad bars and a pasta bar for anyone who still feels starved for choice.

There are bagels alongside the sliced white bread, individual-portion sized containers of cream cheese beside the bowls of peanut butter, and thick hot dogs—which some crew members call "injection" dogs, because of the way they sit in the stomach—available 24 hours a day.

The entire 5,500 crew, including that of the ship and the air wing on board, is fed four meals a day—breakfast, lunch, dinner and a late-night repast called "mid rats," the unappealing name of which is an abbreviation for midnight rations and does not derive from what goes into the food.

$1M a month

The ship's galleys prepare 15,000 meals a day and the food budget runs to almost $1 million a month. The Navy says it is scrupulous about its suppliers and the food service has health inspectors to check what is brought on board—and to reject any substandard items.

With ingredients like that, it's no surprise that the crew will feel well feed, but in the general daily grind, the cooks who have to work with the frozen chicken breasts, ground meat, mashed potatoes from a tin and frozen carrots say it is a real challenge.

Love in the pot

"You've got to throw a little love in the pot," said 25-year-old Kenan, of Brunswick, Georgia, using a ladle almost as long as a cricket bat to stir an immense stainless steel pot to make mashed potatoes.

Kenan, who joined the Navy to be an electronic specialist but, with seven years of civilian cooking experience, wound up as a cook instead, said he had a special ingredient to make the instant mashed potatoes, which come in 2.7 kg drums, taste better.

"I mix the boiling water, butter, salt, pepper, but me, I throw a little bit of chicken base in it—for the flavor, for the color," he said.

Other cooks talk about what they call the "hook up"—which they say means using a special ingredient or two, or a slightly different preparation technique, to vary the monotony. ***Reuters***

US having nervous breakdown?

(From page A1)

strangest of reasons: A man accidentally spilling some confetti in a greeting card; or two "Middle Eastern men" (who were actually orthodox Jews). praying in a suspicious foreign tongue—Hebrew.

Many government officials are keeping schedules of their public appearances secret, or they can't be seen in public at all.

Time Magazine has a joke that Vice President Dick Cheney has become so hard to find that he must be in the witness protection program.

Police and fire departments buzz from one tall building to another, from "sea to shining sea," to check out reports of mysterious white powder that might be the potential germ warfare agent anthrax, or as in several cases, powdered sugar or cookie crumbs.

Disneyland, called "the happiest place on earth," won't let you in until it has checked your bags for guns, bombs and bullets.

Fear in handful of dust

"I will show you fear in a handful of dust," the poet T.S. Eliot once wrote.

He need not bother. Thousands of Americans are doing it on their own in what some are calling a national nervous breakdown in a country that prides itself on being the world's richest and best protected.

The Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center and the highly publicized discoveries of anthrax at NBC in New York and at a tabloid newspaper chain in Boca Raton, Florida, have turned ordinary life in a minefield.

Anything from a newspaper to a letter without a return address to a restaurant buffet table might be fraught with danger, harboring invisible killers.

Mailrooms have been transformed into "hot zones" where clerks don face masks and rubber gloves and pick up the mail with tweezers. The post office flags suspicious envelopes by pasting pink stickers on them.

One Federal Express deliveryman in Los Angeles became so panicky after the NBC anthrax case broke out that he refused to deliver a package because it was put in a rival United Parcel Service box.

Cipro sales up

Disinfectant sales are booming and Internet sites are hawking the anthrax antibiotic Cipro with the entire fanfare previously reserved for Viagra.

FBI offices are swamped with calls about suspicious mail. In just three days the FBI Dallas field office responded to 200 calls about suspicious letters or packages that turned out to be ordinary letters and packages.

"We have come to the point where about an hour ago we had a woman call in because she had the flu. She called her doctor's office and they referred her to the FBI," Special Agent in Charge Danny Defenbaugh said.

On edge

A Delta Airlines flight was diverted to Charlotte, North Carolina, on Sunday after passengers mistook prayers said by two Orthodox Jews on board as a threat. Flight 458 landed at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and passengers disembarked while officials investigated a report that two "Middle Eastern men" were creating a disturbance on board.

"Everybody is kind of on edge, and it just doesn't take much to upset a lot of people," airport manager Jerry Orr said.

A woman in Walnut Creek, California, near San Francisco, hesitated to take a delivery of a rug because the deliverymen looked too swarthy.

Workers in a Manhattan office on Monday refused to pick up copies of the Wall Street Journal because they did not recognize the deliveryman.

Practical jokers and the mentally unstable are ratcheting up overtime for already overtaxed emergency workers.

In Plymouth, Massachusetts, a group of young women returned to their hotel room to find white powder on the bed sheets. It turned out to be coffee creamer and sugar. "It was meant to be a practical joke," Plymouth fire Capt. Anthony Thompson said.

At the Portland, Maine, post office where two powder-filled envelopes burst open, people were relieved to discover that the powder was just baking soda. Apparently, a mentally ill woman had mailed the letters.

A vulnerable nation

"While I would not call it a national nervous breakdown, many people are more afraid than they need to be. There's a big distinction between danger to the country and danger to the individual," University of Southern California sociology professor Barry Glassner said.

"The average person is more likely to die from an auto accident than from an anthrax attack," said Glassner, author of "The Culture of Fear," a book about fear in modern-day America.

But he added: "We can no longer believe as we always have that we cannot be attacked on our own shores and that changes our overall sense of individual and collective security."

Diane Stevens, a "registered US psychic" and astrological consultant in Los Angeles, says her clients are caught in a bind: "People are afraid to spend money right now but they also want to know what's going to happen."

"There are people afraid to go to a post office, a shopping mall, afraid of mail, afraid of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Through my psychic vibrations and interpretations I feel there is no harm to any of my clients in general and we have to be encouraged to go on and have more faith and come together as a united nation."

One Colorado doctor was taking no chances. He sent each of his six adult children prescriptions for Cipro. ***Reuters***

Teachers try to explain 'war' to kids

(From page A1)

Florina Castillo, St. Scholastica's grade school principal, said the teachers had "sessions on critical thinking" the day after the attacks, and then drafted questions for the kids. Social Studies teachers put aside their scheduled lesson for the day to watch, together with the children, TV footage of the attack that many of the children had already seen at home. Children were grouped according to age and grade level.

The purpose of the sessions, Castillo told the INQUIRER, was to help the children express their feelings and questions. This would also help teachers know what their pupils were going through.

At the Malate Catholic School, a Grade 5 class in Sibika was asked whether or not the United States should retaliate. "*Mabuti ba mag*-revenge?" (Is it good to make revenge?) was how the question was phrased. Alberto Baruelo, 11, and Joseph Quilo, 10, said a poll was conducted through a show of hands. "No" won. Alberto and Joseph said they both voted that way. "*Huwag na mag*-revenge, good conversation *na lang*" (Don't make revenge, have a good conversation instead), Alberto, the class topnotcher, added. This way violence won't continue, he said.

Calming fears

What should teachers and parents do to explain what happened on Sept. 11 and what has happened since then? What should they do to assuage fears, to reassure and comfort Filipino children who were aware of the tragedy? How much should children be made to understand?

Dr. Lourdes Carandang, noted child psychologist and author of "Listen to Their Inner Voice," the pathbreaking book on abused children, said that the first and most important thing is to find out how the kids feel. "The adults should first know where the children are at. Not just what they know but what they feel. Let the feelings surface and then validate their feelings."

Children tend to generalize, Carandang said, pointing out the worried tone of Vergara's letter.

But in taking up issues such as the recent terrorist attacks, Carandang cautioned that adults should not inject their own fears. "Don't suggest or impose," she said. But children should not be totally shielded from reality either, she said. Parents, or in their absence, "significant" adults, should give children a sense of safety and security.

"You do not simply tell a child that life is so difficult," she said. "You have to add that you are doing something about it." She cited the case of a child who said, "I wanna die" because her parents kept saying life was so hard on them.

"Children absorb and make sense (of bits of information)," she explained. "They have innate ways of coping. One of them is play. Play empowers and helps in healing."

Prayer for peace

Dr. Perla Leyva, principal of Rafael Palma Elementary School, said the recent events are being tackled in school as part of the Hekasi (Heyograpika, Kasaysayan and Sibika) subject. "But we do not want to overemphasize because the topic might cause division," she said. The school has Muslim students.

In the morning and at noon, before the start of classes, Leyva said, students and teachers say a prayer for peace. Education secretary Raul Roco had earlier issued a circular on the matter, Leyva said, but it is up to them to compose the prayer, which she described as "general."

Last week, Roco announced that he had instructed public school teachers to take up the difference between terrorism and democracy in class. This, he said, was meant to "help (Filipino children) cope with the ongoing US-led war against Afghanistan."

"We need heroes, we need good stories to tell children about democracy and terrorism," he told the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau. "The teachers can discuss the firemen who tried to rescue the victims of the World Trade Center attacks and who died there. But we also have local heroes, like the Benguet miners or the Philex miners who rescued my wife from the rubble in Baguio after the 1990 killer earthquake."

Children can learn about heroes, but they may have a hard time forgetting the horrible images they see.

Mom in Vegas

St. Scholastica's second grader Justine Nicole U. Roxas wrote President Bush: "When I was watching TV, I turned the channel to CNN and suddenly I saw an airplane crashed into twin towers. Suddenly, I just feel sad and shocked. Suddenly I saw an airplane crashing down again the other building. Then my mommy called up and she is there at the United States of America where you belong. I hope if Bin Laden is really the suspect I hope that he could be punished. By the way, my mom is in a far place in Las Vegas. She's working for us and next X-mas, my mom will be home forever. Thank you for taking care of the US. By the way my mother's name is Malu de la Merced Roxas!!! Good day!!! (Two Smiley faces) Lovingly yours . . ."

Imelda's arrest order: 'A first step'

(From page A1)

male aides.

The court took her fingerprints but no mug shots. Ms Marcos was allowed to submit 2 x 2 pictures.

Ms Marcos is accused of setting up bogus foundations when she was minister of human settlements in the 1980s to hide millions of alleged stolen wealth in Swiss banks.

Criminal cases 22867 to 22870 refer to the establishment of three Swiss dummy foundations—the Vibur, Aguamina, Avertin—and the Banque Paribas accounts.

Information filed with the Sandiganbayan said more than $230 million in alleged ill-gotten wealth had been deposited in the Swiss bank accounts controlled by the foundations.

As of March 1986, the Swiss funds were estimated at $356 million when these were frozen. The funds, now in an escrow account, have grown to $659 million.

Ms Marcos remained defiant. She dismissed the charges "as pure and simple harassment" and urged the government to better devote its meager resources to helping the poor.

But Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales welcomed the arrest order issued against Ms Marcos, saying that it was about time the courts act on the many pending cases against the former first lady.

Sandiganbayan records showed that she has had a total of 35 civil and 28 criminal cases.

The former first lady was convicted in two criminal cases in 1993 though the guilty verdicts were reversed by the Supreme Court in 1998. She has also won two acquittals and the dismissal of eight of her cases.

Rosales noted that the former first lady had failed to compensate human rights victims who suffered during the Marcos regime.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said the issuance of the arrest warrant against Ms Marcos for the four graft cases filed in 1995 was an "important first step" in pinning the Marcoses on corruption.

"It (the issuance of the arrest warrant) says that a person who started amassing ill-gotten wealth in 1967 cannot get away with it even by year 2001," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said.

He said the PCGG was ready to go to trial in these graft cases.

"We are confident of the evidence we have," Carranza told reporters.

He said it was important for the PCGG to "prioritize litigation" rather than "look after the preservation of sequestered assets."

The PCGG has assigned its lawyer Tomas Evangelista to help the Office of the Special Prosecution (OSP) in trying the four graft cases.

Government lawyers, however, submitted the evidence to the Sandiganbayan only last week.

The documentary evidence, some of which had long been submitted by Swiss authorities, included papers that showed Ms Marcos' "direct participation in and ownership" of the Swiss funds placed in the three foundations and in Banque Paribas.

The government's special prosecutors only submitted the evidence against Ms Marcos in the four graft cases on Oct. 12 although the court's justices had been asking for these since March 1999.

The prosecution said Ms Marcos had exercised control and management over the Swiss foundations the Marcoses used to "facilitate the transfer of ill-gotten wealth or moneys to the damage and prejudice of the government service."

In its compliance to the court's order on Oct. 12, the prosecution, represented by Special Prosecution Officer II Jacqueline Ongpauco-Cortes, said the OSP was reiterating its "prayer" for the issuance of an arrest warrant against Ms Marcos.

Prior to this, the Sandiganbayan, in an order dated Sept. 7 and promulgated on Sept. 14, denied "for lack of merit" Ms Marcos' motion seeking to dismiss the four graft cases.

The court said that the "long delay" in the submission of the evidence by the prosecution was not a valid basis for Ms Marcos to seek a dismissal of the four graft cases at this stage.

The Sandiganbayan said the Office of the Ombudsman's delay in submitting the evidence in the four graft cases and in complying with the court order was "not unreasonable."

It said that documents needed by the Office of the Ombudsman were then with the National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, and Office of Solicitor General.

"The Office had a hard time coordinating with these different institutions just to make sure that the evidence are on hand in order to avoid the exposure of the accused to trial without sufficient evidence gathered against her," the court said in the Sept. 14 resolution. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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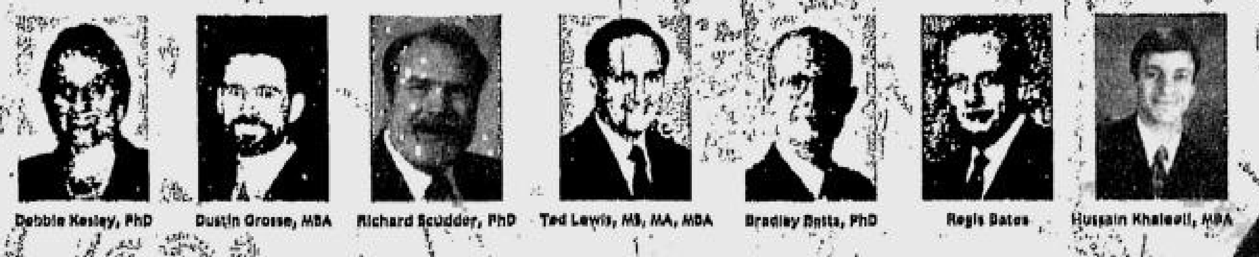

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UAAP FINALE

Archers complete '4-ward'

By Dennis U. Eroa

PROUD and mighty La Salle proved the superior team at crunchtime as it subdued arch rival Ateneo, 93-88; completing the rare UAAP men's basketball "four-ward" before an overflowing, screaming crowd last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Man-mountain Carlo Sharma, ably filling in the shoes for La Salle's hurting frontline, shone while Mike Cortez, BJ Manalo, Ren Ren Ritualo and Willy Wilson also came up with worthy performances.

With big man Manny Ramos down with dengue and rookie Michael Gavino recuperating from a knee operation, Sharma played as huge as his 6-foot-6 frame. He outplayed Enrico Villanueva and silenced the Ateneo gallery with a three-point play off Rich Alvarez which triggered La Salle's fiery windup, 86-83, 1:45 remaining.

Sharma poured in a career-high 22 points, 11 in the fourth period. Cortez had 23, while Ritualo, who fired blanks in the first two quarters, contributed 15 after starring in the Archers' stirring third-quarter comeback.

Villanueva was a letdown, missing close shots and getting bamboozled by the tough-defending Sharma. Villanueva finished with five points and was scoreless in the fourth quarter where the Archers made the crucial run.

"This was the sweetest of the four championships because we're able to erase the stigma of our 1988 loss to Ateneo," said mentor Franz Pumaren, who described La Salle's campaign this year as "stormy."

The loss was particularly a heartbreaker for rookie playmaker Lewis Tenorio, whose amazing incursions and wise quarterbacking kept the Eagles in the thick of the fight. Tenorio erupted with 30 points, including 13 in the fourth period but failed to get enough support from his older teammates.

MVP Rich Alvarez also played without his usual fire, committing his fifth foul off Sharma. He had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

After another Villanueva miss, Cortez, Ritualo and Manalo conspired as La Salle iced the game, 91-84, 26 seconds left, and triggered a wild and wooly celebration from the Archers' jubilant supporters.

La Salle, thus, duplicated the four-peat registered by the University of Santo Tomas from 1993-96. This was also the fourth time in five meetings this conference which La Salle beat Ateneo.

The loss was a big blow to Ateneo's Joe Lipa, who publicly announced that he would quit coaching after this season. For the Eagles, this was another heartbreaker as it prolonged their search for their first title since taking the 1988 crown.

"No excuses. La Salle played a good game. It was the better team down the stretch," said Lipa. "Definitely, I'm leaving Ateneo for good."

Shooting well from the field (56 percent, 5 of 7 triples), the Blue Eagles pounded the Green Archers in the early going.

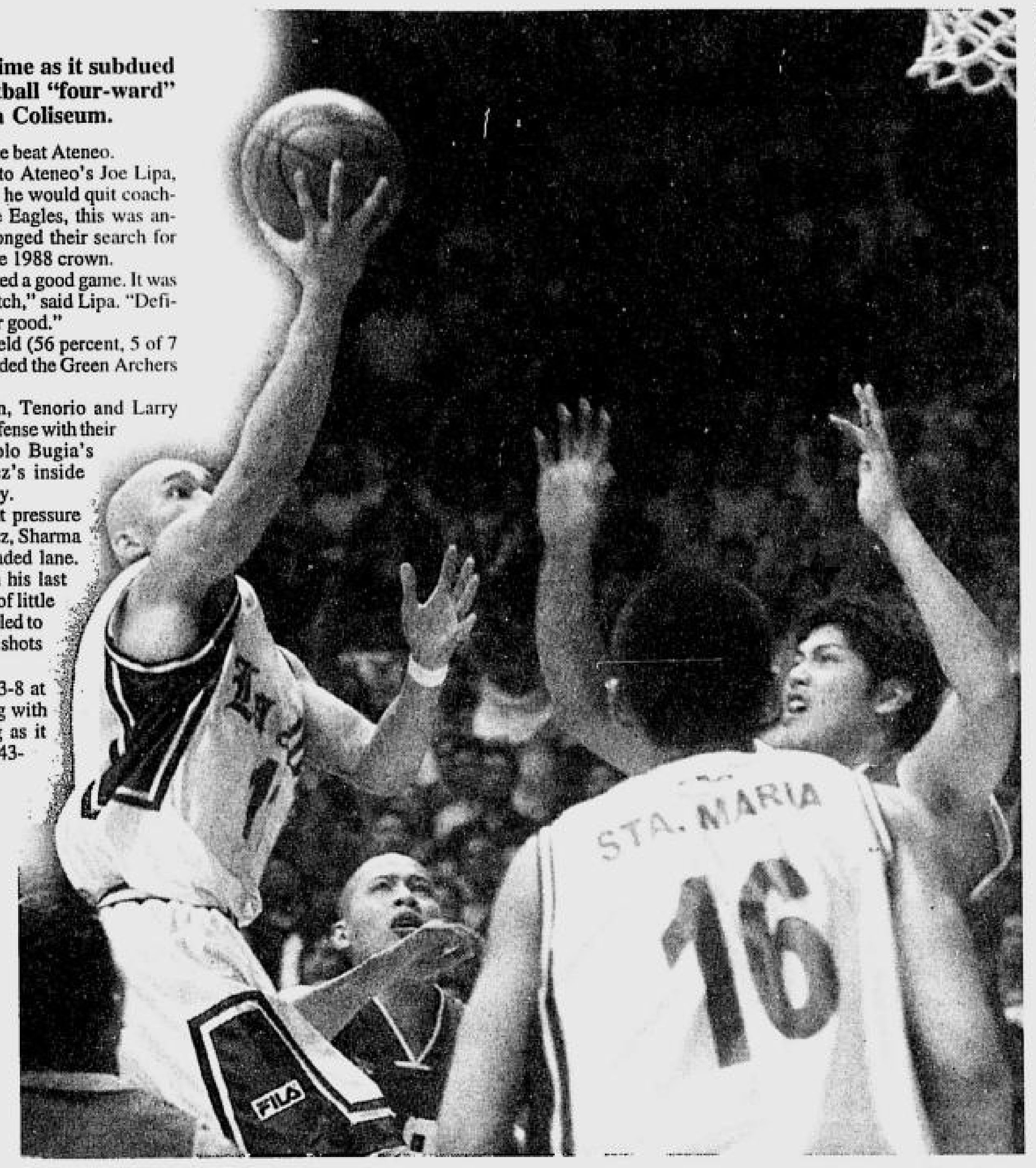
Membrere, Rainier Sison, Tenorio and Larry Fonacier pierced La Salle's defense with their outside shooting, while Paolo Bugia's perimeter shots and Alvarez's inside plays kept the Archers at bay.

La Salle continued to put pressure on Ateneo's defense as Cortez, Sharma and Manalo attacked the shaded lane. Ritualo, who was playing in his last year before turning pro, was of little help as the La Salle gunner failed to score after missing all his six shots in the first half.

La Salle surged ahead, 13-8 at the start, but Ateneo, playing with precision, came back strong as it posted its first sizeable lead, 43-33, 3:57 lead.

The first half ended with enough highlight which will become a part of UAAP lore.

Tenorio, a prized find from San Beda, silenced the La Salle gallery when he scored five straight points, including a triple off a steal in a span of six seconds which powered the Blue Eagles to their biggest lead, 50-39.



LA SALLE'S Mike Cortez slashes the middle (left) for a drive off Ateneo's Enrico Villanueva (right) and Reinier Sison during their UAAP championship game yesterday. Ready to join the fray is Adonis Sta.Maria (16). La Salle won, 93-88, for its fourth straight title. ERNIE SARMIENTO

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Mapua beat San Beda College, 91-90, to capture its 5th NCAA senior basketball crown at the Ultra. Samson Co won the gold in men's spearplay at the 1st World Wushu tournament in Beijing. The victory enabled the Philippines to finish fourth overall with a five-medal haul.

Pop tries to get back on track vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

POP Cola tries to get back on the winning track while Purefoods and Alaska grapple to remain in contention today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Absorbing stinging setbacks in succession, the Panthers are hoping to arrest a two-game skid against the Barangay Ginebra Kings at 7:10 p.m. after the Aces and the Hotdogs fight for the eighth spot at the curtain-raiser.

The Panthers, locked in standoff with San Miguel Beer at 4-4, bowed to Shell two weeks ago, 90-83, that snapped a four-game roll.

It was followed by another debacle against the Beermen, who edged the Panthers, 86-84, in an encounter decided only in the last four seconds of play last Friday.

Poch Juinio was assessed for a foul, sending Danny Ildefonso to the charity stripe to seal the Panthers' doom with a pair of freebies.

The Kings duplicated the Panthers' ignominy as they crumbled in the final stretch to yield against Talk N Text, 81-78, also on the night that the Panthers faltered.

Standings	W	L
Sta. Lucia	7	1
Talk N Text	6	2
Shell	4	3
Pop Cola	4	4
San Miguel	4	4
Ginebra	3	4
Red Bull	3	4
Purefoods	3	5
Alaska	2	5
Tanduay	2	6

Games Today
(Philsports)
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Ginebra

Army booters blast UP, rule Group A

ARMY unleashed its full might to blast UP-Diliman, 11-0, last weekend to top Group A and end its elimination round with an unblemished 5-0 record in the Third Globe Super Cup football tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

In a battle of erstwhile unbeaten squads, the Army booters were relentless in showing that they were a class by themselves and send notice to their rivals of their serious capturing of the championship in this tourney sponsored by Globe Telecoms.

Despite the loss, the UP footballers, who finished the elims with a 4-1 mark, still qualified for the next stage of the event organized by the National Capital Region Football Association.

PCU-Taft closed out its first round with a 3-2 record in the same group after winning over Blueguards by default while UE (2-3) earned the fourth and last slot in the group by whipping winless San Beda, 5-2.

Air Force also put on an offensive show by ripping the MIT-Lions, 13-0, to wind up on top in Group D with a 5-0 record at the UST soccer grounds. UST (3-1) routed Athletico (1-3), 11-1, and FEU (3-1) blanked SJDM, 2-0, in other games held at the same pitch.

Kaya (5-0) ruled Group C by dumping Vista Verde (2-2), 2-0, while Mendiola (4-1) took group runner-up honors after beating Archers (0-4), 9-1.

Yankees, Mariners head for AL championship series

NEW YORK—The New York Yankees, who have won a record 26 World Series, set another mark here Monday when they beat the Oakland A's, 5-3, in the final game of the best-of-five American League Division Championship Series.

New York became the first team to win a divisional series after losing the first two games at home to clinch 3-2.

The Yankees will meet the Seattle Mariners, who defeated the Cleveland Indians 3-1 earlier in the fifth game of their divisional contest, in the best-of-seven AL Championship Series, beginning in Seattle on Wednesday.

In an emotional night before a capacity crowd, New York starting pitcher Roger Clemens, nursing a hamstring injury, gave up two runs in the first two innings.

But then the wheels began to fall off the A's with sloppy defense as they made three errors, were unnerved by the New York crowd, pitcher Mark Mulder hit two batters, and lost starting catcher Ramon Hernandez because of a wrist injury early. The end result was New York's 50th come-from-behind win this season.

The Yankees again rode on the back of shortstop 27-year-old Derek Jeter, who now has a record 86 hits in the post season. He made a spectacular play when he hurtled into the crowd to catch a hit by Oakland's Terrence Long in the eighth inning.

Crowd chanted "Jeter, Jeter, Jeter," as New Yorkers had something to roar about after the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center that claimed more than 5,000 lives.

Jeter, who had two hits, said the win was "huge and tough for us. It was scary because anything can happen in a short series."

Manager Joe Torre, who was wearing a cap with the words 'It ain't over, til it's over,' said: "Apart from the World Series wins, this is certainly a topper (coming from 0-2 down), no question."

Asked about Jeter's performance, he said: "This kid is something."

Oakland manager Art Howe was disappointed by his team's performance saying: "We contributed quite a bit to our demise. We just didn't play well defensively."

New York second baseman Alfonso Soriano got the ball rolling with a hit that brought home Jorge Posada and Shane Spencer to level the score 2-2. *AFP*

Philracom probes Silver Story

IN AN effort to elicit a credible explanation about the lackluster performance of Silver Story in last Sunday's Philracom Mitra Cup Three-Year-Old Colts Championship Race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome, the Philippine Racing Commission issued summons to the owner, trainer and jockey of the celebrated colt.

The inquiry was prompted by Silver Story's stirring debacle in the centerpiece Mitra Cup, where the grey colt finished fifth and last despite being sent off as the overwhelming betting favorite accounting for total daily double sales of P1,088,327 out of the total gross of P1,502,286 for last Sunday's 12th daily double handle.

"In pursuance of the Philracom's mandate to protect the interest of the betting public and to ascertain the circumstances behind the unexpected loss of one of the country's most popular race horses, the Philracom Board has deemed it only proper that an investigation into the matter should be immediately conducted," explained Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez.

Set to be summoned to the Philracom office this Friday are the champion colt's owner, businessman Patrick P. Uy; trainer, Ricardo R. Paman Jr. and jockey Jonathan B. Hernandez.

Based on the official report of the Board of Stewards of the Manila Jockey Club Inc., chaired by Rafael Delas Cagigas, it was ascertained that Silver Story was found limping on its near- fore after the race and was subsequently suspended indefinitely by the Stewards.

Earlier to this, Silver Story was reported to have suffered a bruised hoof weeks before the running of the TAB Philippines-Philracom Open ,Championship on Sept. 30 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Sy rules karting's last race

CARMONA, Cavite—Manuel Sy, Bert Neuhof, Arvin Drueco, Marcel Thenu and Tyson Sy dominated their respective categories at the end of the Shell Super Karting Championships-2001 at the rain-drenched Carmona-Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Sy, who had been relegated to the limelight for most of the season, put up his worthiest performance despite heavy afternoon rains and ruled the season-ending race in the centerpiece Formula Super A category. The nine-part series was organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils,. and sponsored by Shell Helix, Shell Velocity, Shell Citibank Mastercard, Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Nokia, CGU Insurance, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Eastway Racing, Astorga and Repol Law Office and Demvel's Enterprises.

Saving his best for last, Sy outduelled previous winners Jess Garcia, Pepon Marave and Manuel Mayo in the 15-lap third and final heat to become only the fourth karter to win a leg this year.

Sy clocked 18 minutes and 16.979 seconds, 2.862 seconds faster than the Cebu-based Garcia, who checked in with a time of 18: 19.841. Marave, the winningest karter this year with four victories, came in third with 18:53.778.

"I'm very happy to win this final race of the season," said Sy, who also posted the fast lap time of 56.738 in the 15th and final lap.

Dunlop Group sues Callaway

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—Dunlop Slazenger Group Americas has countersued Callaway Golf Co. in the two companies' ongoing dispute about who stole whose recipe for making a better golf ball.

Callaway, which entered the $650 million a year golf ball industry less than two years ago, sued Dunlop on Oct. 3, alleging the makers of the Maxfli A-10 golf ball infringed on Callaway's technology patent for its Rule 35 ball.

Dunlop has been making golf balls for more than 100 years and the technology for its A-10 was developed before Callaway entered the market, Dunlop spokesman Edward Hughes said.

In its lawsuit, the Greenville-based Dunlop claims Callaway is using Dunlop techniques and secret recipes to make Callaway golf balls.

Callaway spokesman Larry Dorman said his company spent $170 million to start its golf ball operations from scratch. The company, based in Carlsbad, California, also is well-known for its line of golf clubs, including the popular Big Bertha drivers.

On Oct. 9, Callaway announced that it had signed a golf ball patent license agreement with Bridgestone Sports Co., of Japan, that allows Callaway to use a number of Bridgestone Sports three-piece golf ball patents worldwide. The confidential agreement ended litigation between the two companies. *AP*

Dying foals cost $336M

FRANKFORT, Kentucky — The mysterious ailment that killed hundreds of foals and prompted thousands of mares to lose fetuses last spring will cost the horse industry $336 million over the next three years.

A report from the University of Louisville, commissioned by Gov. Paul Patton, said most of the loss will be suffered by the thoroughbred industry and will be felt most acutely in 2002 and 2003.

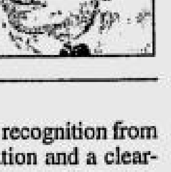
The report said breeders, stallion owners, farm operators, sales companies and agents, veterinarians, farriers and horse transport companies will feel the worst of the economic impact.

About $ 36 million of the loss will hit the standardbred, quarter horse, paint horse, saddlebred and Tennessee Walking Horse segments.

The greatest losses will be from that would have come from the sale of yearlings and older horses in the next few years.

Alvarado's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

AS far as the Philippine Basketball Association is concerned, banned Fil-American or half-breed players, particularly former Tanduay star Sonny Alvarado, will not be allowed to play in the league.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said the ban on Alvarado stays, stressing that his decision was based on the original ruling handed down by then Bureau of Immigration and Deportation commissioner Rufus Rodriguez. He added the league has learned a valuable lesson from the depressing experience with pampered Fil-Am players.

"And when your learn a lesson from the past, you come out stronger after that," said Bernardino. "This time, the PBA will make sure that their papers are in order. And for real."

In the past, a handful were allowed to play in the tournament after presenting supposedly proper documents which included a recognition from the Bureau of Immigration and a clearance from the Department of Justice. However, to the profound disappointment of league officials, these documents were later discovered to be spurious.

In the case of Alvarado, the 6-foot-7 Tanduay forward was ordered deported on May 23, 2000 after he submitted "falsified documents of his birth in his bid for Fil-Am recognition." He was blacklisted and forever barred from returning to the Philippines.

Still, new BID Commissioner Andrea Domingo was recently quoted as saying that her office had granted Alvarado a single entry visa to enable the player to face a falsification of public documents case. Domingo's office has yet to receive Alvarado's arrival records, but the BID official said the player may have entered the country after he was granted the entry visa on Sept. 18.

"The request was valid and so were the reasons for it," Domingo said. "Mr. Alvarado wants to face the court case and clear his name. That is a sign of good faith and I saw no reason not go grant the request. He could stay here and pursue his bid for Filipino citizenship, but he could also land in jail if he loses the case."

On the other hand, PBA executive director Sonny Barrios said, "Even if Alvarado is cleared of his charges with the BI, the PBA ban stays since he has his own case with the league."

In the beginning, these Fil-Am players generated widespread interest by enlivening the games and, subsequently, bringing back the fans with their dominating presence. However, they later became a pain in the neck by displaying bloated egos and attitude problem. Worse, some of them, including their team owners and managers, made a mockery of Philippine immigration and labor laws.

I recall that Rodriguez even slapped charges before the courts against some team owners and managers for hiring foreign players without the proper work papers. The former BID chief explained the team officials "could not have escaped responsibility for the offense because it was their obligation to ensure that the aliens they hired have fully complied with Philippine laws before allowing them to play for their teams." Forgive me, but I don't know whatever happened to the case. Was it already dismissed? Or settled amicably?

SMS tops Milo Olympics

SISTERS of Mary School romped off with 17 gold, 10 silver and 8 bronze medals to capture its 11th straight overall high school division title at the close of the 2001 Milo Little Olympics over the weekend at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The Bacood-based SMS girlstown tracksters once more dominated the medal rich athletics event to bring home the huge Milo trophy symbolic of its supremacy plus P40,000 worth of sports equipment.

Liceo de San Pablo leaned on its swimming prowess to catapult the first-timers to second overall with a 10-3-8 output and won P20,000, while San Beda College was third with a 4-5-3 tally to pocket P10,000 worth of sports equipment.

School of St. Anthony was fourth (4-1-3); No. 5 Arellano High school (4-0-4), No. 6 Valeriano Fugo Memorial School (4-0-2); No. 7 Sister's of Mary-Cavite boystown (3-4-3); No. 8 Ge. Emilio Aguinaldo NHS (3-1-3): No. 9 Philippine Christian University (3-0-2);and No. 10 Makati High School-Pio del Pilar Annex (2-5-2) completes the Top 10 overall high schools.

Military dominates boxing

IRIGA CITY—The projected three-way battle among the branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines came to the fore Monday night as veteran enlisted men came through with inspiring wins at the opening bouts of the 2001 National Juniors, Seniors and Women's Open Boxing Championships here.

Philippine Navy, aching to regain the overall title it lost to Army in 1999 in Cotabato, breezed through with three victories while the defending champion Armymen prevailed in two before Air Force stopped the seemingly unstoppable Navy surge through veteran internationalist Joel Barriga.

Blades eye repeat vs Marlins

FEDEX Laguna's Val Domingo (12) and Jerome Barbosa jockey for position against Cebuana Lhuillier's Joey Santamaria (middle) during their MBA game in Sta. Cruz, Laguna recently. Laguna won, 115-95.

GAMES TODAY: St. La Salle Lipa
3 p.m.—Socsargen-Taguig vs LBC Batangas
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—TPG Davao vs Negros

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	7	1
Andok's San Juan	6	1
FedEx Laguna	4	3
Nueva Ecija	2	5
Southern Conference		
Negros	5	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	3	5
Socsargen-Taguig	1	7
TPG Davao	0	5

By Roy Luarca

THE first time they met, the LBC Batangas Blades won easily over the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins. They'll meet again today with the outcome expected to be the same.

LBC Batangas dumped Socsargen-Taguig, 112-90, on Sept. 2 and is again the solid pick in the 3 p.m. tussle at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum owing to its star-laden roster.

Aside from last year's MVP Romel Adducul, the Blades can also count on Eddie Laure and Alex Compton to deliver the points.

In their first outing at the Sentrum, the Blades struggled in the early going before subduing the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 102-95, last Sunday.

Toting a 7-win, 1-loss record, the Blades need one more win to assure themselves of a semifinal slot in the Northern Conference.

The Marlins, on the other hand, are mired at the cellar at 1-7 and is desperately trying to stay in contention.

Southern Conference pacesetter Negros clashes with TPG Davao at 5:30 p.m. at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

The Negros Slashers whipped the TPG Davao Eagles (122-107) in their first meeting at the RMC Gym and are expected to even better their performance.

Humbled by the Gems, 83-78, in their first home game this conference, the Slashers would want to make it up to their fans and pull away from their pursuers.

Still winless after five starts, the Eagles are searching for their breakout game under coach Jun Noel.

Meanwhile, MBA commissioner Butch Antonio fined Nueva Ecija's Andy de Guzman P4,000 for a flagrant foul on FedEx Laguna's Richard Melencio. Another Patriot, Oliver Bunyi, was penalized P2,000 for trash talking to FedEx Laguna's Jeffrey Flowers.

Sports show at Megamall

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Cycling Association is one of the lead groups actively promoting the forthcoming "Outdoor Sports Show 2001," a pioneering event on Oct. 18-21, at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

The seminar is free to show visitors and is scheduled on Oct. 21, from 3 to 4 p.m. Organized by TradeShow International, Inc. (TSI), the event will showcase the latest equipment for mountain biking, canoeing, rock climbing, scuba diving, fishing, golfing, sailing, sport shooting, hang gliding, wakeboarding, mountaineering and jet skiing, among others.

The show is presented by Lipton Ice tea and sponsored by Pioneer, BMB Karaoke, 105.1 Crossover, NU 107, 939 KC FM and Power-Up.

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Bumgarner posts come-from-behind win

CDS Racing's Michele Bumgarner bade the Cadet class goodbye in dramatic fashion with a come-from-behind win against the favorites in the final round of the Cadet 85 class of the 2001 Shell Super Kart Championship series held Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite.

Bumgarner is upgrading to the Junior KT level next season.

The series' major sponsors are Shell Helix, Shell Velocity, Shell Citibank Mastercard, Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises, Eastway Racing, Matchbox/Hot Wheels, WG & A Shipping Company, Astorga and Repol Law Office and CGU Insurance.

The winsome Fil-American saved her best for last to upend younger sibling Mark and early race leader Marty Aguilar in the final race.

Needing to finish ahead of Aguilar to take third place in the final overall tally, Bumgarner carried out her attack after Aguilar spun out at the first hairpin. With three laps remaining, Aguilar gave chase but the Bumgarners held their ground to finish 1-2.

Pinoy Topping's Mike and Pocholo Anton likewise came up with a similarly noteworthy sibling performance by finishing 4th and 5th behind podium winners. Mark Bumgarner's 3rd place finish fortified his hold on second in the find Cadet 85 tally. Demvel's Tyson Sy, the runaway series champion failed to finish the season's last race on account of a spin out in the early goings.

Bosco booters sparkle

CEBU CITY—Don Bosco Technical Center shocked defending champion Abellana National School, 4-0, last Sunday at the start of the local Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations at the Sports Complex here.

Carmen National School edged University of Southern Philippines, 1-0, in the other match.

Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad and Cebu football Association head Mario Ugarte graced the opening ceremony of the tourney organized by PFF and sponsored by Coca-Cola.

In a related development, five teams are still unbeaten in the Laguna provincial eliminations. These are Cahbriba Alternative School, South Hills School, Unson National High, Camp Vicente Lim National High and San Pablo National High (Annex 5).

Cahbriba and South Hill blanked their respective rivals last Saturday to post their second straight victories in the Middle Laguna competition at the UP Los Baños field.

Cahbriba topped Christian School International, 2-0, on Anthony Decena's goals in the 61st and 72nd minutes, while South Hill ripped UP Rural High, 3-0, as Polo Ramirez knocked in two markers and Lawrence Carrido added one.

Ynares bets up

BINANGONAN of sportsman and former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares shared the lead with two other entries by scoring three straight victories Monday night in the NCA 7-Stag Derby at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

Ending tonight's (Wednesday) four-stag finals with identical three points are crowd favorite Mulawin Argem Coliseum and NCC-333. Within striking distance with two points apiece are equally formidable entries including Sarangani of the unsinkable James Chiongbian, Jima-Fer of derby hosts Jun and Bum Jingco ot Pampanga, BC Showdown 5.5M Roligon and Jima-Fer I.

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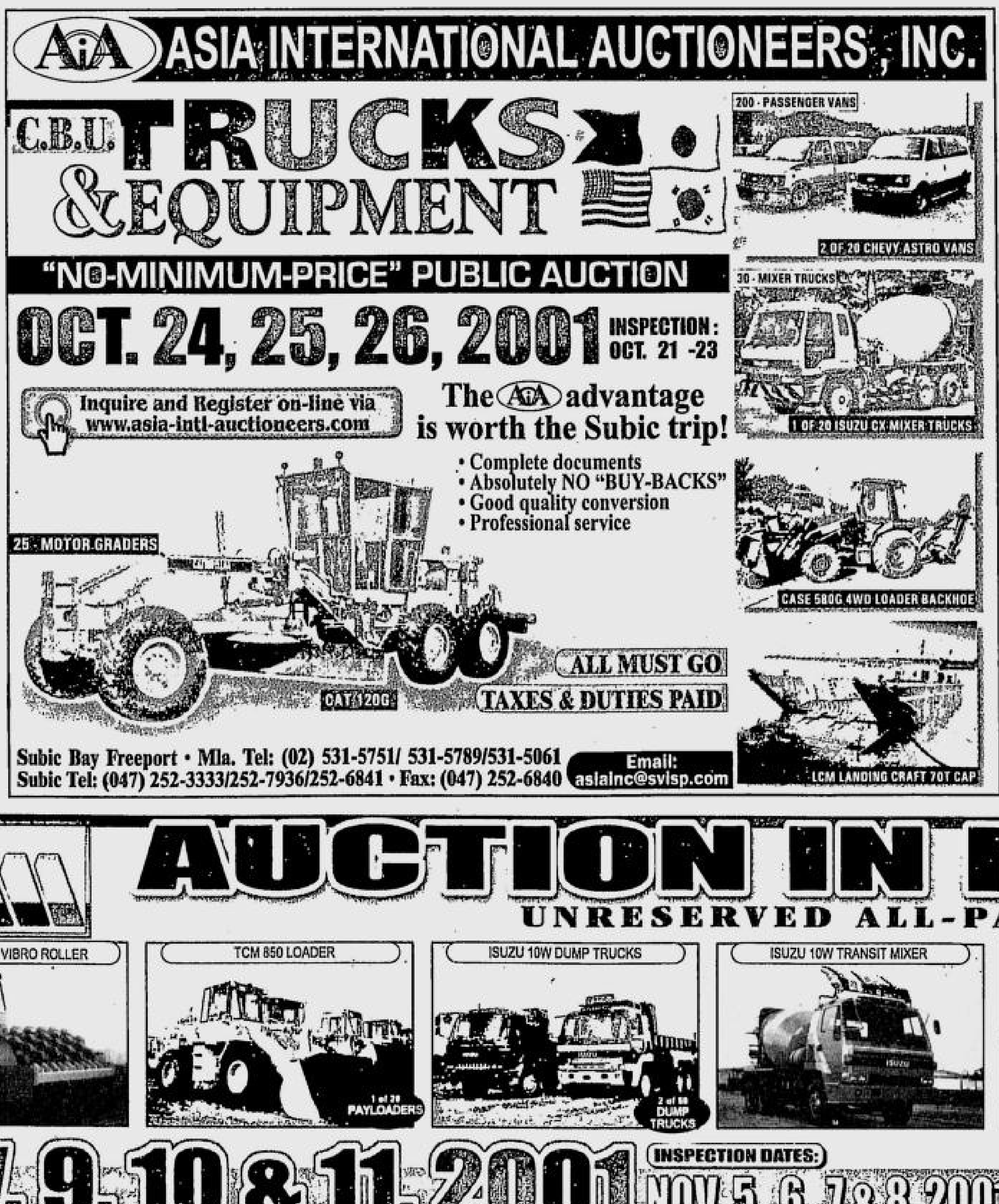

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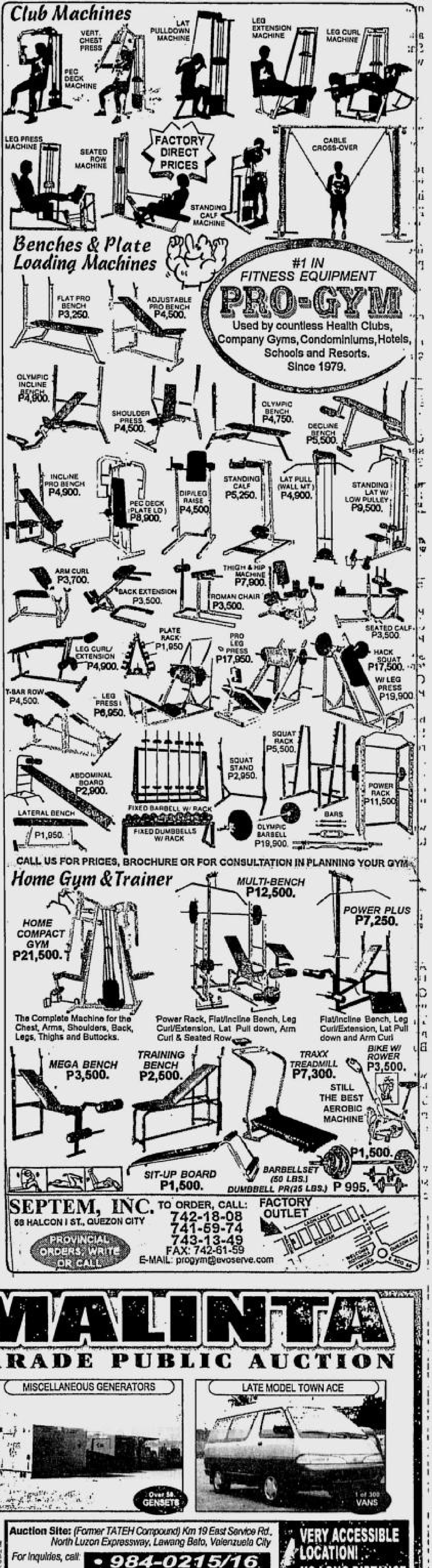

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Tracy fined $50,000 for unsafe driving

TROY, Michigan—Paul Tracy was fined $50,000 and stripped of three championship points by CART on Monday for unsafe driving and other violations during the Honda Grand Prix. The Canadian driver also was put on probation for the final two races of the series, CART chief steward Chris Kneifel said Monday. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart) - Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: World Cup Mix at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
International Beach Soccer - Portugal vs Brazil at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
UEFA Champions League Group Phase 1, Match Day 4 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on ESPN

PROTEST RALLY

Athletes welfare is POC concern–Dayrit

BY MARC REYES

TUASON

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said he is willing to accompany the disgruntled athletes and coaches group to a dialogue with Philippine Sports Commission officials in order to avert the Oct. 25 protest rally they are planning to stage.

Dayrit stressed that "going to the streets is against the principle of Olympism" even as he maintained that his office has always been open for the national athletes.

"I have always been for the athletes and my doors are always open for them," Dayrit told the INQUIRER. "The athletes' welfare has always been the primordial concern of the POC.

"I can't order them not to push through with the rally but I certainly can't endorse it," said Dayrit, whose resignation ironically was also being called by Acap along with that of PSC chair Butch Tuason and his commissioners. Tuason was locked in a marathon meeting yesterday when the INQUIRER called up.

Dayrit added that while he's started planning the staging of the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games, the POC has not neglected the athletes who are the body's foremost concern.

In fact, Dayrit said the POC is already drafting the mechanics of establishing the athletes' commission which, in accordance with the International Olympic Committee directive last year, will have a seat in the POC general assembly.

However, Dayrit said the commission will be made up of athletes only because coaches are considered officials and thus represent the POC administration.

Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines president Jaime Sebastian said he welcomed Dayrit's offer but stressed that he can't call off the protest rally which will begin with a lunchtime Mass on Oct. 25 and will go on until the PSC officials eventually resign.

Sebastian said they will hold picket lines and prayer vigil in front of the administration building of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex where people from different sectors of society are expected to join them.

Aside from that of Tuason and Dayrit, Acap is also asking the removal from office of PSC commissioners Richie Garcia, Weena Lim, Cynthia Carrion and William Ramirez.

Jaime protests PWA sacking

NATIONAL coach Jaime Sebastian yesterday said he will protest his sudden termination from the Philippine Weightlifting Association and the manner with which it was carried out.

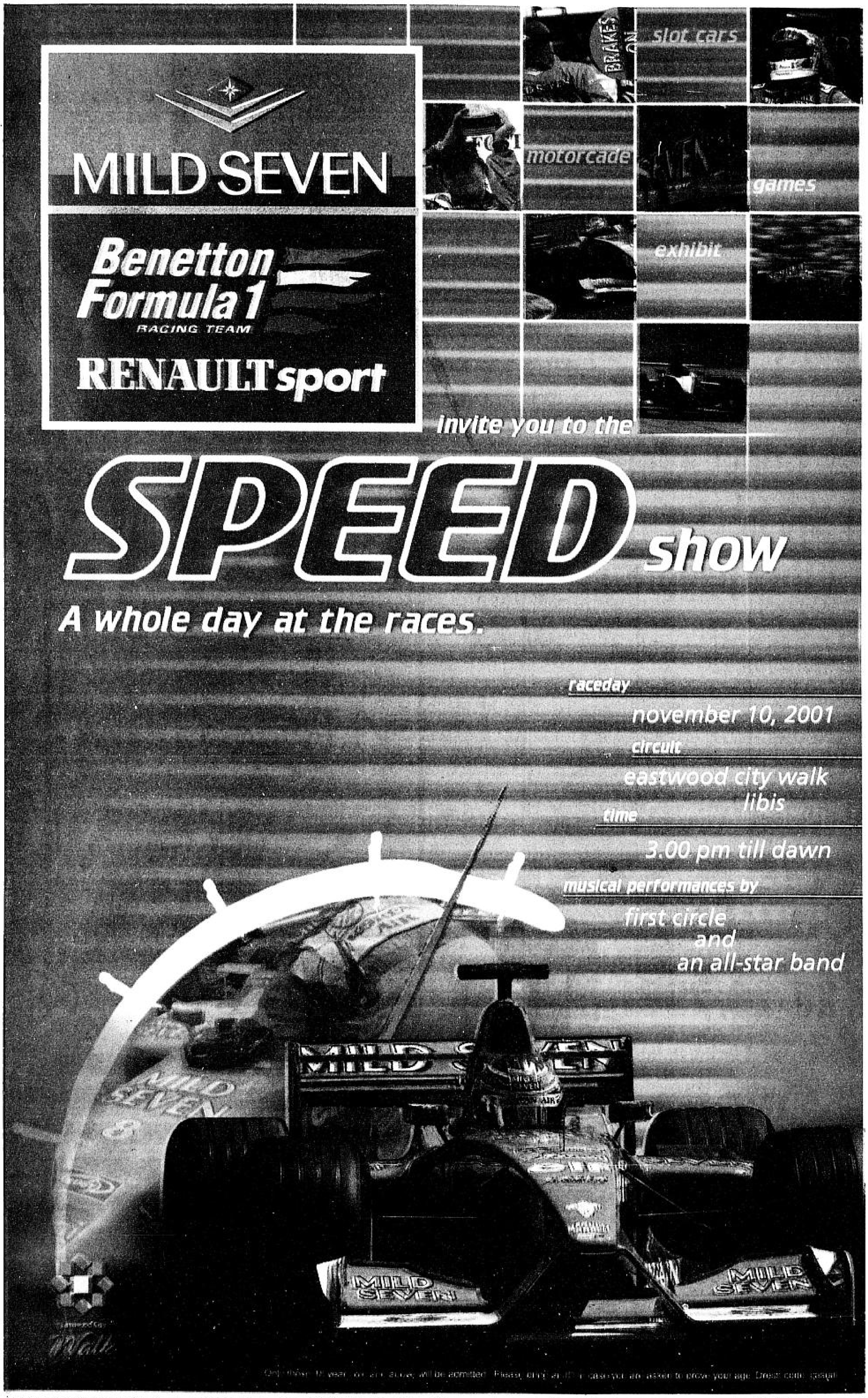
Sebastian said he was informed only Monday night that he has been fired by the PWA effective Sept. 29 in a memorandum signed by PWA president Rodones Sicat. He was fired along with PWA vice president Graham Lim, who vowed to file a court suit against Sicat for his summary dismissal.

Since he didn't know of Sicat's decision, Sebastian was able to claim his paycheck for Oct. 10 that would leave him accountable with the Philippine Sports Commission.

"My problem is that I have to give back the money to the PSC or else I would be charged for malversation," said Sebastian, who is also the leader of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines.

Sebastian said he approached Sicat immediately to ask for explanation but the PWA head could not give him a good reason.

"The only reason I know is that I've been voicing out the plight of the athletes and coaches," said Sebastian, who added that Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason promised to investigate Sicat's alleged misdemeanor during the recent Southeast Asian Games. *Marc Reyes*



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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bare Eye: How Benhur and the residents stopped the monster A24
Barangay head gets 17 years A24
Convict 'hulidap' policemen, Muslims group urge A24
Welder dies in 20-story fall A24

Stolen cell phones swapped for drugs

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

DRUG dependents have found **a lucrative way to sustain their habits without spending money.**

According to police, a number of drug dependents have turned to snatching cell phones and trading the stolen items for their worth in illegal drugs.

For instance, a new Nokia 3310, which regularly costs P5,800, could be exchanged for 2.5 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, police said. A Nokia 8850 which costs about P18,000 could be exchanged for 9 grams of the prohibited drug.

Shabu has a street value of P2,000 per gram. The smallest amount that can be sold is called *"piso"* and costs P100, police said.

STOLEN CELLPHONES/ A24

Court lifts freeze order on Nievera property

NIEVERA

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court yesterday lifted the freeze order on the property of singer Bert Nievera and his wife Carol, the couple's lawyer announced yesterday.

Nick Conti, Nievera's legal counsel, said Judge Vicencio Baclig of QC RTC Branch 77 lifted the order of attachment.

The Nieveras' Honda CRV, Nissan Patrol and Jaguar were given back to the couple late yesterday afternoon.

The freeze order was issued after the Nieveras allegedly failed to settle their P7.5-million debt to Antonio "Jun" Achurra Jr., owner of Je-An Supreme Builders & Sales Corp. The amount was part of the P33 million used to build the Country Waffle branches in Libis and on Bohol Avenue in Quezon City that the couple owns.

But the Nieveras denied the allegation that they still owed Achurra.

"We already paid him in full even if the Libis branch is only 85 percent finished and Bohol Avenue 35 percent," said Carol.

"We shouldn't resort to extra-legal measures to get what we want," said Conti. "Clearly, this is a form of harassment."

Co-counsel John Quirante said the Nieveras

COURT LIFTS/ A24

Stray cats, dogs beware

BY JEROME ANING

THOUSANDS of stray cats and dogs in Manila would be spared from death, but they would be neutered or sterilized to curb their growing population and prevent the spread of rabies, the city's chief veterinarian said yesterday.

Dr. Jose Diaz, chair of the city's Veterinary Inspection Board, said neutering is a "more effective and humane approach to animal population management and a major component of pet

STRAY CATS/ A24

WAZZZZUP?
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Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MAGINI	BARRICADE KNIGHTS/HERZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	GOALKEYS FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	ZYNAXIS MR.ROXY/FAT 16	FREDDIE A OCT. 24 ☎ 936.9757
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant HOTEL REMBRANDT, T. MORATO, Q.C.	MULATTO RETRO-FUNK NIGHT	PRE-ORDER UR BEER B-4 9PM ☎ 373.3333
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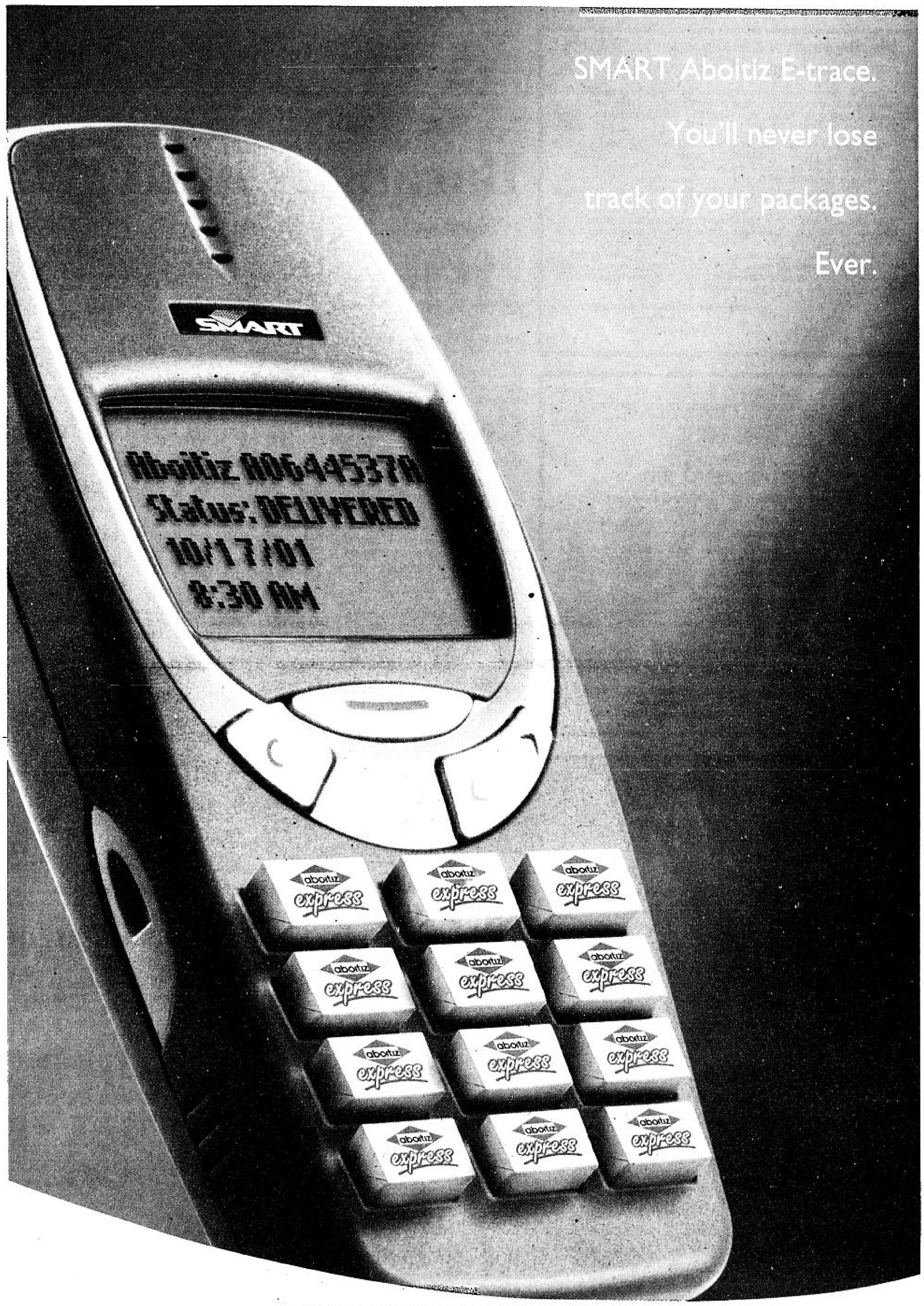

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How Benhur and the residents stopped the monster

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FOR the first time in more than a year, residents living around the dreaded fiberglass factory that emitted poisonous fumes had a restful sleep on Saturday.

They woke up to a joyful Sunday and again breathed clean, healthful air.

Naturally, the residents were not exaggerating, they were not being OA, when they expressed their unanimous thanks Monday morning after operations at the nearby Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. on G. Aglipay Street in Mandaluyong were halted.

Thank you, said Dr. Luciana Bargo, who swore there had been an outbreak of severe respiratory ailments, mostly among children, after Anesco's poison-emitting facilities went full-blast in the past months.

Thank you, said Evelyn Ruiz, who once was confronted by a gun-toting guard at Anesco after she knocked at the factory gate to inquire what had been causing the harmful stench in the air.

These affected residents had known deep within that it was killer air they had been breathing.

They knew they had to contend with an invisible murderous monster.

But the best they could do was frown and cover their mouths and noses with handkerchiefs. They could not think of any other sane form of defense.

* * *

Then, on Saturday, they finally got their deserved relief.

You could read pure, genuine joy in their faces.

You only have your city mayor, Benhur Abalos, to thank, the residents were told yesterday.

Indeed, the affected residents had been helpless.

They had suspected the owner of the dreaded firm to be very influential, untouchable.

But on Friday, after Abalos got first-hand information from civic leader Nandy Charvet about the criminal operations of Anesco, he ordered city administrator Vic Victoria to take immediate action.

Victoria sent a team over to the Anesco compound. By Saturday morning, fiberglass production in the dreaded factory was stopped.

Abalos had reacted swiftly. Then, upon reading additional information on Anesco's harmful operation in the INQUIRER on Monday, the city mayor gave the owner of the firm 48 hours to explain why the firm should not be shut down permanently.

Anesco was ordered to produce an ECC, or environmental clearance certificate.

The ultimatum was to have lapsed at the close of office hours yesterday.

* * *

Let's hope and pray the gladness of the affected residents won't be short-lived.

In the first place, environmental authorities should be made to explain why firms that poison the air are allowed to sit and operate in the heart of thickly populated areas.

It's very likely the owner of Anesco had either circumvented the rules or bought his way around.

In fact, the owner, identified as a certain Ernest Yu Yek, had asked someone to call up this reporter and request for a meeting after his illicit operation was exposed.

The call, from an old media friend during the Daily Express days, came Monday morning. The Anesco owner, the caller said, wanted a meeting to sort of explain his side.

The owner had to do the explaining to authorities and the affected residents themselves, the caller was told.

The request for the dinner-meeting was promptly turned down.

There was nothing to talk about, truth cannot be revised, it's non-negotiable, the caller was told.

* * *

Anesco must've been raking it in. This could be the reason why it had gone full-blast in its operations these past months.

One thing is sure, though: The owner cannot produce the permit required of him by the mayor's office.

For one, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through a ruling signed by Jacinto Orcullo, chief of the Environmental Protection Section, has reported that Anesco, after being found to have committed several violations, does not have a permit to operate.

Not only that. If Anesco succeeds in doing some hocus pocus to resume operations, affected residents have vowed to take a firm stand. They have promised to barricade the factory.

After having again experienced how it is to breathe healthful air, the residents could put their lives on the line to prevent the return of the invisible killer monster.

It's no fairy tale, but these poor people also have a right to live with an ounce of unpolluted gladness, every now and then.

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The City Government of Parañaque invites interested contractors and those previously qualified by PBAC to submit Application to Pre-qualify (Pre-C) and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the proposed various infrastructure projects of the City.

Only contractors classified as SMALL and MEDIUM categories and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on Contractor's Classification and Registration will be issued Pre-C Forms. Financial Statements for the last three (3) consecutive years. Working Capital and Net Financial Contracting Capacity of the Contractors/Bidders are required in the pre-qualification.

Application Forms for the pre-qualification are available at the PBAC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Eng'g. Dept. upon payment of two hundred pesos (P200) starting October 22 to 26, 2001. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License and IAC Classification Registration to verification authentication purposes. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Documents is on Monday, November 05, 2001, 4:00 PM at the Office of PBAC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **HON. JOEY P. MARQUEZ**
City Mayor
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 17, 2001)

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INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all interested security printers for the Printing of Classified Materials for the Year 2001 PEPT, PVT, NEAT and NSAT Sampling Programs.

All interested security printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting October 15, to October 23, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 25, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on November 6, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI–Oct. 17 & 18, 2001)

Barangay head gets 17 years

BY JEROME ANING

A FORMER Manila barangay chair has been sentenced to 14 to 17 years in jail by a regional trial court judge that found her guilty of stealing P58,000 worth of equipment and property owned by the barangay.

Dolores Agoncillo, former chair of Barangay 472 in Sampaloc, Manila, was found guilty of stealing a Ping-Pong table, a 12-foot aluminum ladder, a can of paint and two paint brushes, two wheelbarrows, a stand fan, a typewriter and nightsticks—all government property.

Agoncillo was not present when Manila RTC Branch 51 Judge Rustico Panganiban read his five-page decision finding her guilty of malversation of government property.

The court also fined Agoncillo P45,000.

She pleaded not guilty to the charge during her arraignment on Feb. 8, 1996, but she jumped bail shortly after the arraignment.

Judge Panganiban said Agoncillo is considered to have forfeited her right to rebut the prosecution's evidence because of her repeated non-appearance.

The failure of Agoncillo to turn over the public property upon demand by her successor Crispin Batara Jr. "shall be sufficient evidence that she has put such missing properties to personal use," Panganiban said.

Batara, also the prosecution's main witness, said he and the barangay council members wrote Agoncillo three letters asking her to turn over the equipment and other properties, but she failed to return them.

Others items found missing were a P10,000 communication system, P10,000 typewriter, an executive office table, a stand fan, 10 folding chairs, 4 basketballs, 4 volleyballs, a net, 2 wheelbarrows, an aluminum ladder, 2 shovels, 2 rakes, a can of white paint, 2 paintbrushes and a typing table.

Batara said Agoncillo returned 25 jackets, 30 T-shirts with the barangay logo and 15 bullcaps, but these were given to the barangay watchmen and not to him.

He said 15 flashlights, 10 raincoats, 15 whistles, 15 handcuffs and 15 nightsticks were also not returned.

Convict 'hulidap' policemen, Muslim groups urge

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

MUSLIM groups yesterday urged the Department of Justice to expedite the case against six policemen accused of extortion to avoid a whitewash.

Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, said the government should apply the full force of the law on policemen who allegedly have been victimizing Muslim businessmen in Metro Manila.

"The government should show that it is also protecting the welfare of its Muslim brothers by convicting these police officers," Basman told the Inquirer.

Suspects Chief Insp. Michael Angelo Martin, Insp. Allan Jing Medina, PO3 Arnold Asis, PO2 Pedro Gutierrez, PO2 Nilo de Paz, and PO2 Antonio Berida Jr. are facing multiple criminal and administrative charges for allegedly victimizing a Muslim millionaire in Manila early last month.

The charges were filed before the justice department.

Basman and the victims, however, feared that the Department of Justice might not immediately attend to the case since the DOJ supposedly had been ordered by Malacañang to concentrate on suspected members of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

The former members of the Northern Police District allegedly kidnapped and extorted money from Maca-Angcos Alawiya, Isagani Abdul and Zarah Langco.

Alawiya and his companions were driving along UN Avenue when the policemen bumped their Mitsubishi Pajero to force them to pull over, investigation showed.

When the three men alighted from their vehicle, the policemen allegedly seized them, commandeered their vehicle, and took them to a safehouse. Alawiya, who owns several jewelry shops in Quiapo, and his companions were reportedly released only after they gave the policemen P700,000 and two vans.

A week later, the same group of policemen arrested businessman Omra Macmac from his Pasig residence for alleged drug trafficking. The police officers released him from the NPD headquarters in Caloocan after about 100 Muslims stormed the place hours after the arrest.

Also yesterday, an ecumenical group of clergy and religious, together with Muslims, trooped to the US Embassy in Manila and called for an immediate stop to the US bombings of Afghanistan.

The marchers were about a hundred laymen, nuns, Muslims, seminarians, and priests from Kairos, the Moro-Christian People's Alliance (MCPA), the Promotion of Church People's Response, and the Inter-Faith Network for Justice and Peace.

When the peace advocates arrived outside the US Embassy, the embassy staff closed the gates. This infuriated scores of Filipinos applying for US visas and other people who had business with the embassy.

The demonstrators held a 30-minute program to express their views. They had with them effigies of B-2 bombers, missiles, and other war weapons.

They "reject the Bush administration's war of aggression and state terrorism against the people of Afghanistan in pursuit of those responsible for the attacks that killed thousands of civilians at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center," said Fr. Jose Dizon of Kairos Philippines. ***With Philip C. Tubeza***

LEARN TO WALK THE TIGHT ROPE of UNCERTAINTY, CONFLICT and RISK

Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS
Alan Barker, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Strategic Consulting Services Inc. and Director, IMPACT Consultancy Group (SCS Philippine partner), will discuss the importance of influencing skills in leadership and identify the underlying motive, thought patterns and competencies needed in the skillful use of influence. He will illustrate how one can acquire these competencies and supporting skills for more effective leadership.

Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)
EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES
Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.

Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)
MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK
David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (orchestra patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

Register at the following Inquirer Classified Ads branches: **Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd, Quezon City 421-1420/421-0343; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357** ***or at the*** **OPTIMUS MANAGERS AND ADVISORS, INC.** ***office*** **at the 2nd floor, Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City 414-0186, 414-0587.**

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Welder dies in 20-story fall

A WELDER yesterday fell to his death from the 20th floor of a building under construction in Manila.

Paulino Lorenzana, 34, a Fuji Reynolds welder and a resident of Upper Bicutan, Taguig, fell while he was on his way to lunch, said investigator SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Lorenzana suffered a head injury and a dislocated leg after losing his balance and falling from the 20th story of the unfinished Moldez Tower on Padre Faura corner L. Guerrero Street in Ermita, Rival said. Lorenzana did not fall all the way down to the ground floor but landed on the 12th floor, Rival said.

Lorenzana died while undergoing surgery at the Philippine General Hospital. His body was transferred to the Tres Amigos Funeral Parlor for autopsy.

Philip C. Tubeza

TUP sets centennial congress

THE TECHNOLOGICAL University of the Philippines (TUP) is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

One of the highlights of the celebration is a centennial congress on engineering, science and technology and industrial education on Oct. 18-19, 2001, at TUP Manila.

The congress is focused on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the new economy which experts from academe, government and industry will talk about.

For further information, call 521-4065 and 521-4086 or e-mail titoaguila@edsamail.com.ph.

Stolen cell phones . . .

(From page A23)

"Drug syndicates can easily dispose of cell phone units which the drug user trades in for drugs," said Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District criminal investigation unit.

Medina pointed out that most cell phones are costly, worth more than some wristwatches or pieces of jewelry.

"Therefore, a drug dependent can get more shabu" for one cellular phone than other snatched items, Medina explained.

Authorities estimate that drug traders earn revenues of about P265 billion a year, sustaining the habits of hundreds of thousands of mostly young and idle people.

And with the rising number of cell phone users, drug dependents-turned-snatchers will never run out of victims.

"That explains (why there are so many) cellular phone snatchings," Medina said.

At least one cellular phone is reported stolen in each of the 11 CPD stations each week, according to the Inquirer's research findings.

But station desk officers admitted that there could be more cellular phone snatching cases which go unreported.

Medina confirmed to the Inquirer that cases of cell phone snatching are on the rise, prompting the Philippine National Police to carry out an information campaign on how to avoid becoming a victim.

Court lifts freeze order . . .

(From page A23)

are thinking of filing a damage suit.

The construction crew of Je-An Supreme Builders, who worked on the two Country Waffle branches, claimed they did not receive their wages for two weeks.

Carol said the workers were getting hungry and were forced to steal construction materials to buy food.

"The Nieveras took pity on us and gave some of us a week's wages," lineman Vicente Ador said. "But many of the workers still have not received their wages."

Construction suppliers also filed an estafa case against Achurra for allegedly issuing bouncing checks.

One of the suppliers, Charlie Go, claimed that Achurra still owed him P150,000. Go said Achurra even threatened him when he demanded payment.

Achurra's lawyer Renecio Espiritu refused to comment, saying "the case is already filed in court."

"I would appreciate it if you would just look at the pleadings in court," Espiritu told Inquirer.

Stray cats, dogs beware

(From page A23)

ownership which the city is promoting."

Manila has the highest canine population in the Philippines, estimated at 200,000 this year, according to a press statement from the office of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

But Manila has the lowest incidence of rabies, the statement claimed. About 30,000 dogs, mostly from poor communities, have been vaccinated by the VIB, it said.

Sterilization is the latest effort of the city government to control the increasing population of stray animals in the city and the spread of rabies.

Twenty veterinarians from the VIB and other local government units in Metro Manila participated in a three-day training last week at the city pound in Vitas, Tondo.

Atienza, who formally opened the training, said he hopes surgical sterilization would control the incidence of rabies in the capital.

The training was conducted in cooperation with the Philippine Society for the Protection of Animals and the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Fear of terrorism pulls down US box office take

LOS ANGELES - Terrorism fears seemed to keep North American moviegoers away from theaters over the weekend, arresting the high-profile launch of "Bandits," a crime comedy starring Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton, according to studio estimates issued on Sunday.

"Bandits" opened at No. 2 with about $13.5 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, a far cry from pre-release tracking data indicating a bow of about $20 million.

"Training Day," starring Denzel Washington as a corrupt L.A. cop, narrowly held onto the top spot in its second weekend, with a three-day haul of $13.6 million. Although the two films were close, industry observers doubt the rankings will change when final data are issued on Monday.

The top 10 featured two other new releases: "Corky Romano," a crime comedy starring "Saturday Night Live" regular Chris Kattan, at No. 3 with $9.3 million; and "Iron Monkey," a martial-arts adventure, at No. 6 with $6 million.

"Bandits," which cost between $75 million and $80 million to make, pairs Willis and Thornton as daring bank robbers who team up with a bored housewife (Cate Blanchett). Barry Levinson directed the film, which was released in North America by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. Reviews were mixed.

Complete wipeout

Amid news reports Friday night of anthrax scares and government warnings to remain vigilant, the "Bandits" target adult audience apparently decided to stay home.

"Friday was a complete wipeout," said Bob Levin, MGM's president of marketing and distribution, likening the situation to a winter blizzard.

Key markets such as New York City, Washington DC, Boston and Philadelphia were virtual ghost towns on Friday, Levin said. "Bandits" earned more in Plano, Texas, (population: 222,000) than it did in New York, he said.

Business recovered strongly on Saturday and Levin said he was confident that word-of-mouth would help the film next weekend.

Of those brave souls who did turn up, exit polling indicated 75 percent of the "Bandits" audience were over 25 and 54 percent were female, a studio spokeswoman said.

Three-quarters of those polled rated the film "very good" or "excellent" and two-thirds gave it a "definite recommend."

The Warner Bros. production "Training Day" has pulled in $43.6 million after 10 days. The gritty drama took a small hit on Friday, studio distribution executive Jeff Goldstein said.

"Corky Romano," a picture panned by the critics in which Kattan plays a Mob scion sent to steal FBI evidence against his family, suffered negligibly because its core audience of under-25-year-olds was "not constrained" by terrorism fears, said Chuck Viane, president of theatrical distribution at Walt Disney Co. The opening was on target, and he expected the picture, which was budgeted at $11 million, would be profitable.

Sales fall

Rounding out this weekend's top five, each down two spots from last weekend, were the John Cusack romantic comedy "Serendipity" (Miramax) at No. 4 with $9.0 million and the Michael Douglas thriller "Don't Say a Word" (Fox) at No. 5 with $6.8 million. Their respective totals are $26.6 million after 10 days and $41.8 million after 17 days.

Miramax also distributed "Iron Monkey," a Hong Kong movie originally made in 1993, and now promoted enthusiastically by film buff Quentin Tarantino. A studio spokesman said the release was a "labor of love."

The top 12 films grossed $78.8 million, down 5.1 percent from last weekend, but up 6.4 percent from the year-ago period when "Meet the Parents" ruled the box office for a second weekend.

In the limited release arena, director David Lynch's Hollywood noir thriller "Mulholland Drive" opened at No. 14 with $708,000 from just 66 theaters in 15 US markets. Its strong average of $10,412 more than doubled the average of any film in the top 10, indicating that it played to packed houses.

It expands next Friday to 200 theaters in 80 markets. Universal Pictures released the film.

New releases next weekend include "From Hell," a drama starring Johnny Depp in pursuit of Jack the Ripper; "The Last Castle," a military prison thriller starring Robert Redford; and "Riding in Cars with Boys," a drama starring Drew Barrymore.

Warner Bros. is a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc. Miramax Films is a Walt Disney unit. Twentieth Century Fox is a unit of Fox Entertainment Group Inc. Universal Pictures is a unit of Vivendi Universal.

Reuters

Falling in love with Meg Ryan not a crime – Crowe

SYDNEY - Oscar winner Russell Crowe said Monday he fell in love with Meg Ryan although he claimed he was made to feel like a criminal.

"Let's just be sort of straight about this, I fell in love with one of the most beautiful women in the world and for some reason some people think that that's a crime," he told Channel Nine TV Monday.

"I've got nothing else to say about it."

Crow split with his "Proof of Life" co-star 11 months ago after their relationship attracted relentless tabloid attention.

But he refused to elaborate on the reasons for breaking up with Ryan.

"The situation didn't work out for reasons that really have got nothing to do with anybody else," he said flatly.

Crowe is preparing for the release of his new movie, "A Beautiful Mind," which he hoped would put focus back on his life as an actor.

"I never have really been a movie star, I've been an actor," he said.

"That's never been me or how I physically look or what my image is supposed to be. Quite frankly I couldn't give a stuff."

In the Ron Howard film, "A Beautiful Mind," Crowe plays mathematician John Nash Jr who battled through schizophrenia to win the Nobel Prize.

"I play him from 21 to 70 over the course of the movie," said Crowe. "I've seen the next to final (cut of the film). I was very moved by it."

"A Beautiful Mind" opens in the United States on Dec. 25 and is widely tipped as an Oscar contender.

AFP

TUPAC SHAKUR AND AALIYAH HAUGHTON

A warrior and a princess

BY EMMANUEL V. PAPA

REVIEW

"UNTIL THE END OF TIME"
Amaru/ Deathrow /Interscope Records

"They've got money for war, but they can't feed the poor"

THE late Tupac Shakur, the "ghetto saint," is back (in spirit, at least) with another double-CD, which includes songs he wrote shortly before his tragic ending.

Tupac, one of the world's influential rappers was shot in his car on Sept. 7, 1996, shortly after watching the Tyson-Seldon fight in Las Vegas. He died on Sept. 13, a Friday. He was only 25.

The release of this compilation brings to mind fantasies that Shakur still lives—he's out there somewhere planning his next career move, mixing and re-mixing tunes, etc.

But for me, it's best to let Tupac rest in peace.

The CD is composed of unreleased tracks, gathered and re-strucured by his mother, Afeni, who now handles the industry that Tupac had built. With the help of different artists, like Tupac's protégé rap group, the Outlawz, this album relives the memory of a great artist who spoke his mind sincerely.

Aggressive rap

The first disc opens with an aggressive rap "Ballad of a Dead Soulja" dedicated to Tupac's loved ones who had passed away ("This go out to Kato, Mentor/All the niggaz that passed away"). Tupac just picks up from where they left ("Thug for Life, I will lead") and probably tries to continue what they've all done.

The sentimental "Happy Home" is written for Tupac's sister, though a closer listen will tell you that it's about how glad he is about having a happy family life with his own wife (I promise I won't do you wrong/ I just want a happy home/finally made it outta mom's house, and got a happy home")

"Letter 2 my Unborn" is obviously for "li'l Tupac". Somehow prophetic, this rap is an expression of sincere love to his unborn seed ("In case I don't make it, just remember daddy loves you"). The razor-sharp "All Out" is a "gentle" diatribe to other rappers whom Tupac refers to as fakes— "softer than cushion". Tupac's rapping in this one gives you the feeling that he is a raging chainsaw, out to disable everyone that stands in his way ("We goin' all out! Bomb first 'til they fall out!).

The ruminating "Until the End of Time" is perhaps the best track in the album, and somehow serves as a summary of the whole CD. As he always does in his other songs, Tupac asks forgiveness from the Lord for the "life of sin" he has lived.

Premonition

Along the way, Tupac narrates his life, from all the troubles he's been through, to homeboys he's been with, then proceeds to a sample from the song "Broken Wings" (Take these broken wings/ I need your hands to come and heal me once again/ so I can fly, until the end of time").

Also, this song is one of those in which Tupac somehow felt he'd pass away sooner than we'd thought ("Getting' raw till the day I see my casket/ buried as a G while the whole world remembers me").

Disc 2 opens with the sound of gunfire—"Mic-check interlude", then proceeds to "My Closest Roaddogz", a song you can play during a late afternoon cruise with your own homeboys.

"When Thugs Cry" shows Tupac's soft side, but its hackneyed, melodramatic sound fails to carry the song's atmosphere. "This Ain't Livinn'" tells of a secluded life of desperation in the projects. A testimony on desperation, this track has good keyboard works. The intro of the boastful track "Last Ones Left" reminds you of two classic Tupac hits "Changes" and "I Wonder if Heaven Got a Ghetto".

The remaining tracks appear to be poorly produced and re-mixed, creating a monotonous string of clumsy hip-hop flavor and making you think it wasn't really intended for commercial release.

Tupac Shakur had always been a prolific rapper. His thuggish chants concretized his status as an artist who expressed the things in his mind without hesitation. Tupac's contradictions—dropping in pensive, sentimental rhymes amidst a repertory of pure "gangsta" rap makes him more lovable to his fans and irritable to his foes. His new CD makes me salute a great rapper who once screamed "WESTSIDE!" with street-thug conviction, while reminding those who are frustrated with life to always "Keep Ya Head Up."

Rest in peace, hommie.

"AALIYAH"
Blackground/Virgin Records

"I like to think that God is in my heart and leading the way through any setbacks"

Aaliyah Dana Haughton
1979 &ndash; 2001

A week before the August 25, 2001, I was at a record store thinking of what Aaliyah CD to buy. I restrained and told myself I'd buy the two albums I saw next time. On August 24, before turning on the radio, I somehow hoped that an Aaliyah song would be playing.

To my surprise, her classic "One In a Million" was being played. It was a sign that convinced me to buy her albums. Two days after, I learned Aaliyah had died when her plane crashed on her way home from the Bahamas where she filmed a video.

I was devastated. The 22-year old R & B artist had given us hits such as "The One I Gave My Heart To", "Journey to the Past" and "Are U That Somebody".

She magnificently played the role of Trisha O' Day in the action flick "Romeo Must Die". After five long years of waiting, she released her third self-titled album, and was set to appear as Zee in the much-awaited "Matrix" sequel.

At her very young age, she had already launched a blitzkrieg of contributions to the entertainment arena. And she was just warming up.

Great artist

This CD review is a paean to a great artist, an R & B princess, who, if it were not for the senseless tragedy, would have conquered the world.

The CD opens with the hypnotizing "We Need A Resolution", a song about a relationship about to turn sour. This song features producer Timbaland who again squeezes in his familiar "fiki fiki baby girl" heard on the song "Try Again"(from the "Romeo Must Die" soundtrack), and reminds you of the classic "Are U That Somebody" (from the "Doctor Dolittle" flick).

The upbeat "Loose Rap" is all about envy, jealousy, and talking garbage behind a person's back ("I'm sick and tired of the Loose Rap/ you know you can come better, come better than that"). It's a song overflowing with attitude balanced with Aaliyah's soothing voice.

The sensual "Rock the Boat" is a girl's seductive tribute to a boy's romance ("Boy you know you make me float"). The song "I Care 4 U is already five years old and Aaliyah's favorite track in the album. It talks about a girl trying to comfort a broken-hearted man, convincing him that she can make that man feel he's special and loved ("Why you lookin'; so down/ seems like you need a lovin'/ baby you need a girl like me). "Never No More" is about the path of pain a woman took after the man she knew and loved turned into a cold "monster" (Thought I lost you when you twist back my arm/ 'cause the man I thought I knew wouldn't do me no harm"). "Extra smooth" is a message to a guy to act naturally and be himself. "U Got Nerve" is about a girl taken for granted by a guy ("took my kindness as a sign of weakness/my own blindness caused my sadness/no longer am a slave over your madness"). "It's Whatever" is about compatibility and romance with a bright future ("you're my lemon squeeze/ you got flavor boy/you go good with me").

Loud song

It's Aaliyah's turn to play the games the male species play in the "think-it-over" track "What If" ("What if/every guy I saw /sittin' down at the bar/ I told him to give me a call"). This is certainly not for the jealous-type. A "loud" song of typical Aaliyah flavor amplified by guitar riffs, it somehow becomes dragging and irritating but picks up immediately before it ends. The Piano-ladden "I Refuse" is another heartache song of a guy leaving a girl ("'Cause once upon a time/it was you I adored/

AWARRIOR/A26

The Corrs live worth the months of waiting

"THE concert event of the year."

This was how music lovers dubbed the two-night spectacular performance of the Irish band The Corrs at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 29 and 30.

The Big Dome was filled to the rafters when the show started with their trademark opening song, "Only When I Sleep," followed by two of their recent hits, "Give Me a Reason" and "Irresistible."

After the third number, Andrea apologized to the audience that their show, which was originally scheduled for Feb. 16, 2001, had to be postponed. Andrea said she was touched that the fans held on to their tickets and waited for seven months to watch the Corrs perform at the Araneta Coliseum.

The band continued with their greatest hits: "What Can I Do," "Dreams" and their traditional Irish instrumental, "Toss the Feathers." Andrea introduced "I Never Loved You Anyway" by saying "this is for the broken hearted."

Their all-time biggest hit, "Runaway," brought the house down. The people in the audience started waving their hands in the air and flashing their lighted cell phones. It seemed like there were a thousand fireflies flying about in the dark, their wings glowing and weaving a magic never before seen at the Araneta Coliseum.

The magic spell continued as the band sang "Don't Say You Love Me." Couples embraced each other.

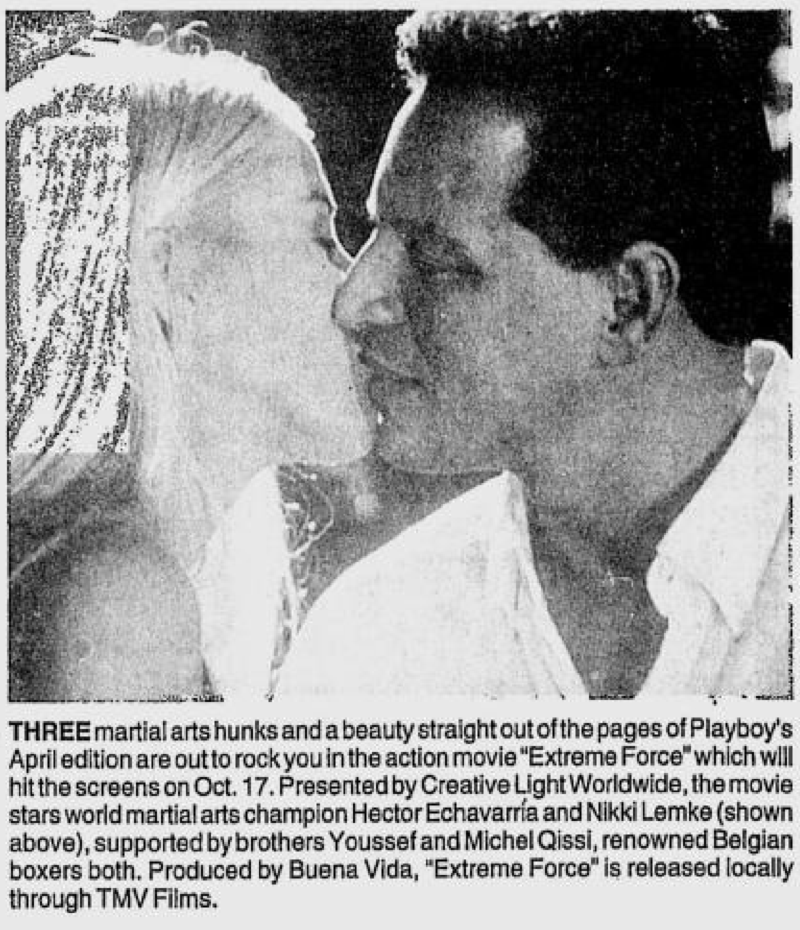
The acoustic segment followed by their latest hit "All the Love in the World" turned the Araneta Coliseum into a huge sing-along place as the audience joined the band in singing the song.

Then the Corrs decided to quicken the tempo with "Queen of Hollywood," "Old Town," "No More Cry" and "Radio." People stood up and danced.

When Sharon performed solo on the violin, the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

The Corrs sang "Breathless" for their finale number but the crowd wouldn't let them go and kept on chanting "More! More! More!" The Corrs returned with their new single "Would You Be Happier" and "So Young."

For the thousands who packed the Big Dome for two nights last month, the "Corrs Live in Manila" was worth the seven months of waiting.



THREE martial arts hunks and a beauty straight out of the pages of Playboy's April edition are out to rock you in the action movie "Extreme Force" which will hit the screens on Oct. 17. Presented by Creative Light Worldwide, the movie stars world martial arts champion Hector Echavarría and Nikki Lemke (shown above), supported by brothers Youssef and Michel Qissi, renowned Belgian boxers both. Produced by Buena Vida, "Extreme Force" is released locally through TMV Films.

Vernie, Bituin and all that jazz

first leg, "Divas... and All That Jazz" goes full-throttle with a second take, featuring Verni Varga and Bituin Escalante on Oct. 16 at Onstage Greenbelt at 8 p.m.

A happy marriage and family life hasn't stopped Vernie from constantly striving to captivate her audience every time she performs. She Verni has done several gigs for City Lite 88.3's City Jazz Lounge series and City Jazz n' Grooves, and each time she always makes the audience beg for more.

Bituin first caught the public eye as the intense Mary Magdalene in the most recent and unique local staging of the Broadway musicale "Jesus Christ Superstar." Since then, her star, like her name says, has been burning brightly.

Bituin, an Aliw Awardee, has lent her powerful voice to countless jingles and movie themes, and after performances in many concerts, it's time to have her own.

"Divas... and All That Jazz" is sponsored by Pacific Speed Surf, New York Life Insurance, Equitable Bank and Caltex Halvoline.

For its second-in-a-series of City Lite Party Nites Out for the month, City Lite holds a street party with Arriba and Nxt Level on Adriatico Street on Oct. 31.

City Lite Party Nites Out – the Street Party is sponsored by Pacific Speed Surf, Bayfresh, Equitable Card, Touch Mobile, Winston Cigarettes and VMV Cosmetics. For inquiries, call City Lite 88.3 at 631-8803.

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	EXTREME FORCE
2 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4 GOLD (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE BODY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	MANANABAS
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	THE BODY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	NAKED NIGHT

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	NAKED NIGHT
2	EXTREME FORCE
3	MANANABAS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	THE BODY
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	AMERICAN PIE 2

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	MARITAL RAPE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NEW FIST OF FURY
A	NAKED NIGHT

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	THE NEW FIST OF FURY

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	
3	
4	
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	NAKED NIGHT
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
8 (SDDS)	EXTREME FORCE
9 (DOLBY)	THE BODY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MANANABAS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	
5	NAKED NIGHT
6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	
9	

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 (SDDS)	THE BODY
6	
7 (DOLBY)	
8	

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 (SDDS)	

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MANANABAS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MANANABAS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SIN OF THE NIGHT
Lords	NAKED NIGHT
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MANANABAS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	THE BODY
3	NAKED NIGHT
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	THE NEW FIST OF FURY
4	
5	
6	NAKED NIGHT

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	NAKED NIGHT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MANANABAS
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 (DTS)	THE NEW FIST OF FURY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
4	NAKED NIGHT
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	NAKED NIGHT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	NAKED NIGHT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2	SISID
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	NAKED NIGHT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SISID
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

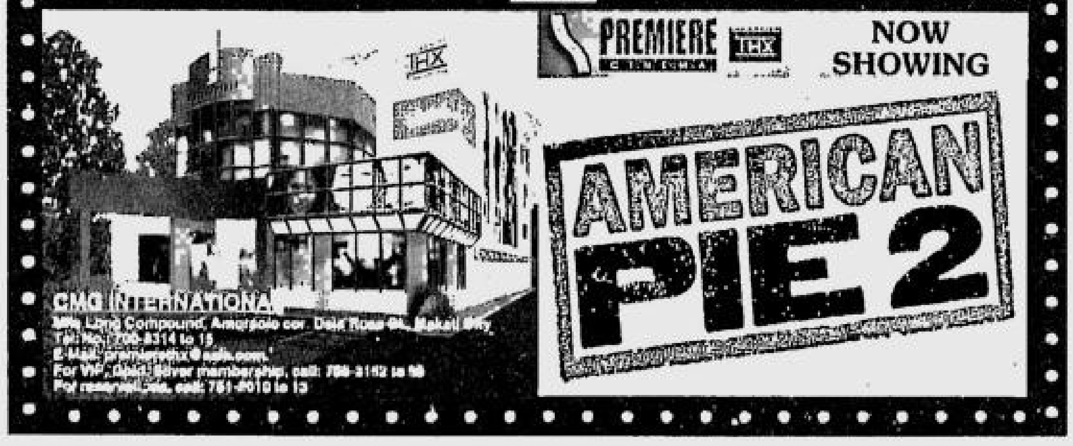
1	MARITAL RAPE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	SISID

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MARITAL RAPE
2	SISID
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS ES)	THE HOLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

AMERICAN PIE 2

CMG INTERNATIONAL
[illegible] Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 750-8314 to 15
E-Mail: premierethx@[illegible].com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 750-2142 to 45
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: [illegible]
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA
632 9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

① THX	THE BODY
2	THE BODY
3	EXTREME FORCE
4	13 DAYS
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	INVISIBLE CIRCUS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	EXTREME FORCE
3	13 DAYS
4	MANANABAS
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	THE BODY

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	13 DAYS
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	MANANABAS
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	RESERVE
7	THE BODY
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	13 DAYS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	NAKED NIGHTS

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	LAST ERUPTIONS

SOON TO OPEN

- METRO EAST
- SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
- ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE BODY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	RED DIARIES / ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
ODEON	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ODEON-2	SISID
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JURASIC PARK 3 / STICK MAN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	MANANABAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE HOLE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-2	THE BODY
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
CINEMA-4	MAGDALENO ORBOS

Wolfgang, arm-wrestling, Halloween at Padi's

CELEBRATING the recent launching of its "Black Mantra" album from Sony Music Phils., the popular Wolfgang band rocks Padi's Mindave restaurant bar in Quezon City tonight, Wednesday.

Wolfgang's Padi's Mindave concert comes after its series of acoustic performances. Wolfgang is composed of Basti Artadi, Manuel Legarda, Mon Legaspi and Wolf Gemora.

Sponsors are San Miguel beer, Jack n Jill Chippy, Getasia.com, 99.5 RT, NU 107.5, Lucky Strike and others.

On Oct. 24 will be held the Mindave Arm-Wrestling Challenge, which is open to men and women above 18 years old who will buy one bottle of Colt 45 beer.

New actress Glaiza de Castro of "Cool Dudes" celebrates the launching of her first carrier single, "Magbalik Ka," with an R&B-inspired concert at Padi's Mindave on Oct. 25.

On Oct. 30, Padi's Mindave will have a Halloween costume party, live bands and a foam bath party. Sponsors are Budweiser beer, Bacardi Breezer, Captures Unlimited, Mild Seven Cigarettes and others.

Ongoing every Sunday is the Mindave singing competition for children and adults.

For inquiries, call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

Pearl Hotel happy hour

THE happy hour at The Pearl Manila Hotel is now daily from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

The happy hour, held with live entertainment in the Seven Seas Café on the 9th floor, offers discounted alcoholic beverages, beers, appetizers and oyster dishes. The Oyster Bar serves the freshest oysters from Roxas City.

The Pearl Manila is on General Luna Street corner Taft Avenue and UN Avenue. Call 400-0088 for inquiries and reservations.

A warrior

(From page A25)

you disappeared and left me here/ out in the cold"). The very sad but upbeat, martyr-like track "I Can Be" is another constant Aaliyah theme of being "the Other Girl" ("I know you have a girl/I don't want to tie/when you're free one night/just make those hours mine").

The CD is worth getting and loving. It's Aaliyah's shedding skin album becoming and sounding more mature in every track, taking big steps higher from her bubble gum R & B persona.

Aaliyah, Arabic for "highest, most exalted one", has indeed scorched to the zenith of success. Her spirit will always be around, as her songs remain on top of our charts. Let us not mourn, but rather celebrate that God had given us another angel.

Your spirit will shine forever, Aaliyah.

Ad exec adds new tune to videoke phenomenon

NEXT to texting, Filipinos have become attached to video sing-along, also known as videoke. From urban sidewalks to high-class clubs, videoke has become a popular entertainment fare in Metro Manila.

With 25,000 sing-along parlors mushrooming in the country's urban centers and an estimated 8.3 million Filipinos hooked on the craze, videoke has become a national passion. Some had even given up their life to sing "My Way" in videoke bars.

In the next few weeks, the good old videoke would have a bright new twist, thanks to the enterprising savvy of advertising executive Rey Mendoza, who has transformed videoke into a novel advertising medium.

Advertisers can now avail themselves of the visual opportunities of videoke advertising, says Mendoza, whose Beyond-the-Line Communications has tied up with major videoke album producers for 90 percent of the market. He is now accepting advertising bookings for top videoke songs for mass distribution in reputable record bars nationwide.

Mendoza expects videoke advertising to relieve consumer good manufacturers of the reeling effects of the cost of traditional media advertising.

Says Mendoza: "Except for bloated advertising costs, videoke advertising shares much of television's best characteristics."

Claimed to be a Filipino invention and done mostly during group get-togethers and celebrations, the sing-along craze started in the Philippines in the eighties as karaoke, then used with a microphone, pre-recorded audiotapes and cassette player.

But in the mid-Nineties, it developed audio-visual capabilities and began to be played back using a television attached to a VHS or video compact disc player.

With the widespread availability of recorded material and plummeting prices of VCD players, microphones, and TV sets, videoke is now found in over half of metropolitan households. Those without the equipment can simply tune in to their favorite videoke channel on cable TV.

Videoke currently enjoys 100 percent awareness among middle to upscale segments—both male and female—of the metropolitan population.

"No other nation is better able to hit the right notes at the right tempo than Filipinos do," Mendoza notes.

Starry, starry cast lights up 'X-static'

IN CELEBRATION of Youth Month this October, Marylouise International Productions joins Unicef in presenting one of the country's biggest musical events this year, "X-static," at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 19.

"X-static" features "Mr. Pure Energy" Gary Valenciano and Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha.

Joining them are pop sensations Carol Banawa and Karylle, hit-maker Aiza Seguerra, matinee idol Piolo Pascual, and MTV Asia's Donita Rose.

Completing the stellar line-up are the Powerplay band, Whiplash, and The Manouvers.

With Floy Quintos as stage director and Mon Faustino as musical director, the concert promises highly-charged production numbers, state-of-the-art lighting, stylish costumes, and a visually stimulating production design.

Gary V will, of course, lord over the dance music while he whips up homegrown favorites. Lani will harness the power of soul music. Karylle and Carol will extol the freshness of pop music, while Aiza will make them swoon with her chart-topping hits.

Piolo will provide the mainstream appeal while Donita will add the gloss to "X-static."

"X-static" is Marylouise International's first concert production for 2001.

It will also be Gary's first concert appearance outside Genesis Productions.

"Gary believes in the concept of 'X-static' for he, too, is an advocate of the youth and we at Marylouise are very happy that he is a part of this event," said Nievera, Marylouise's production liaison officer.

"This is an exciting concert," publicist Hanzel Villafuerte said. "I am happy to be a part of a concert that supports very good causes like youth issues."

Tickets to "X-Static" are P1,200, P1,000, P600, P300, and P150 and are available at Manila Genesis (721-4405 loc. 207 or 106), Primeline Inc. (897-6172), Marylouise ticketing office (840-3745), SM Ticketnet outlets, and at the Araneta Ticketnet.

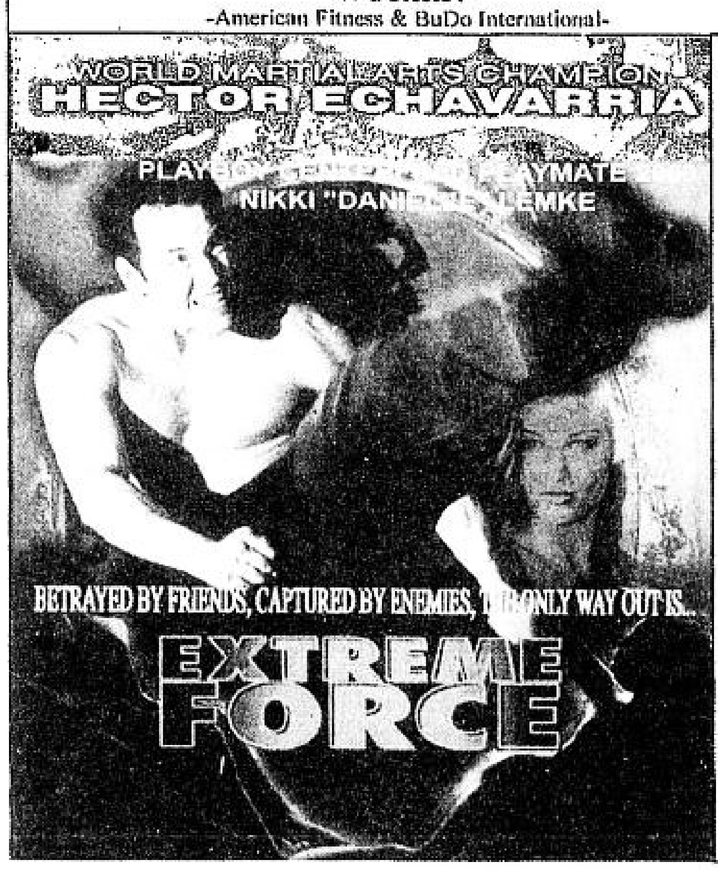
For more information call Marylouise Productions International at 840-3745 or 812-4422.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

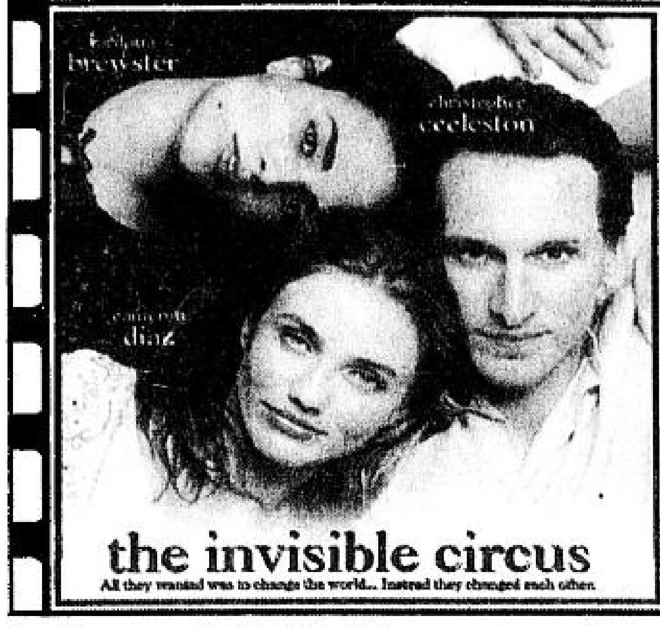
THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40	THE BODY 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:05, 1:20, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

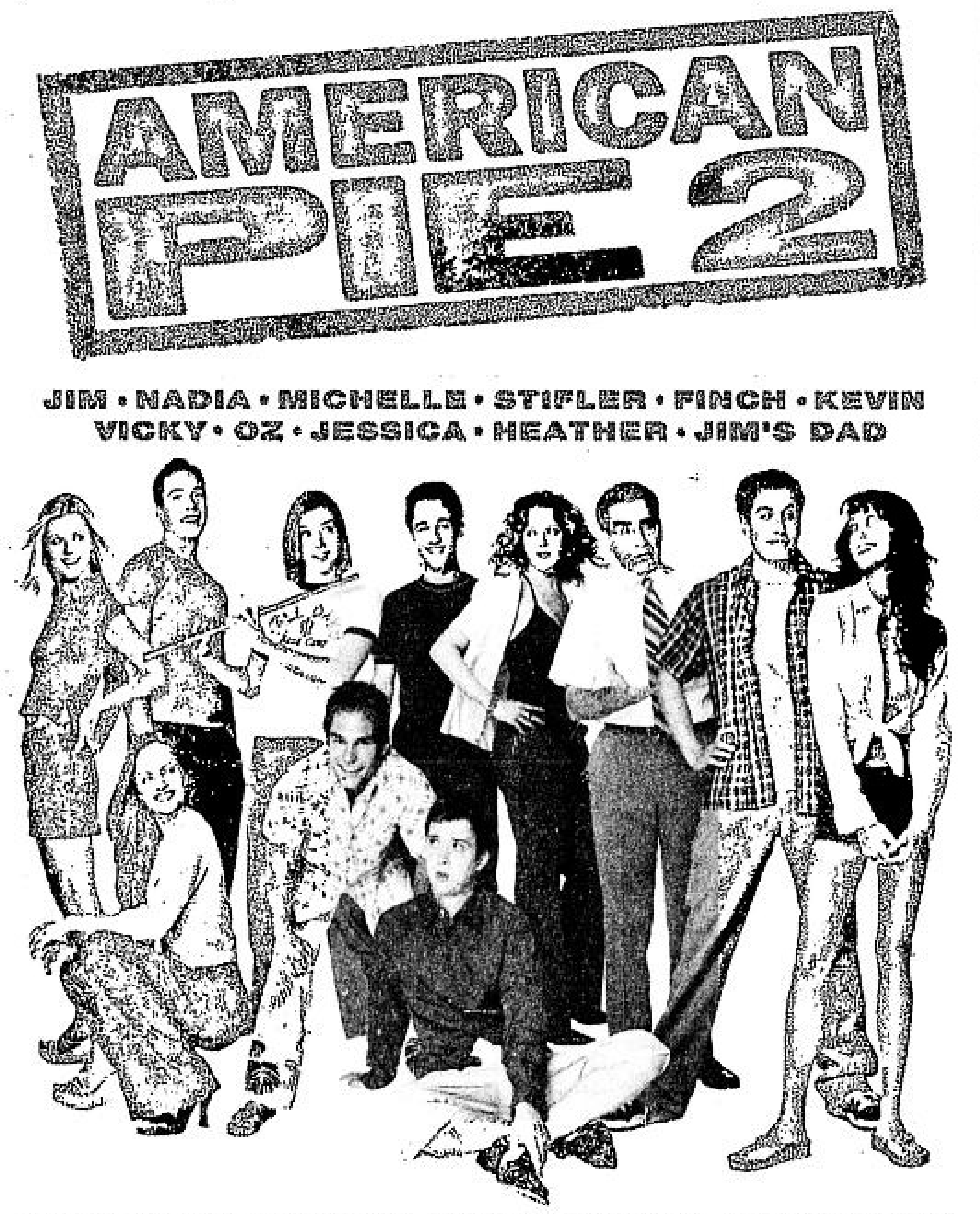
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MEET "THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD!"
-American Fitness & BuDo International-
GRAND OPENING TODAY!


WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION
HECTOR ECHAVARRIA
NIKKI "DANI" LEMKE
BETRAYED BY FRIENDS, CAPTURED BY ENEMIES, THE ONLY WAY OUT IS...
EXTREME FORCE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
Art Film.
"THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS"
FINDS CAMERON DIAZ'S ON-SCREEN PERSONA TAKING A DARKER TURN. THE ROMANTIC DRAMA, SET IN 1970 EUROPE, IS ABOUT AN 18-YEAR-OLD WHO RETRACES THE STEPS OF HER CHARISMATIC FLOWER-CHILD OLDER SISTER (DIAZ), WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE THERE EIGHT YEARS EARLIER.
@ Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria - Cinema 7,
starting October 17, 2001.
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18


brewster
christopher eccleston
cameron diaz
the invisible circus
All they wanted was to change the world... Instead they changed each other.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
NO.1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 3 WEEKS!
OVER $140 MILLION AND COUNTING!
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL!

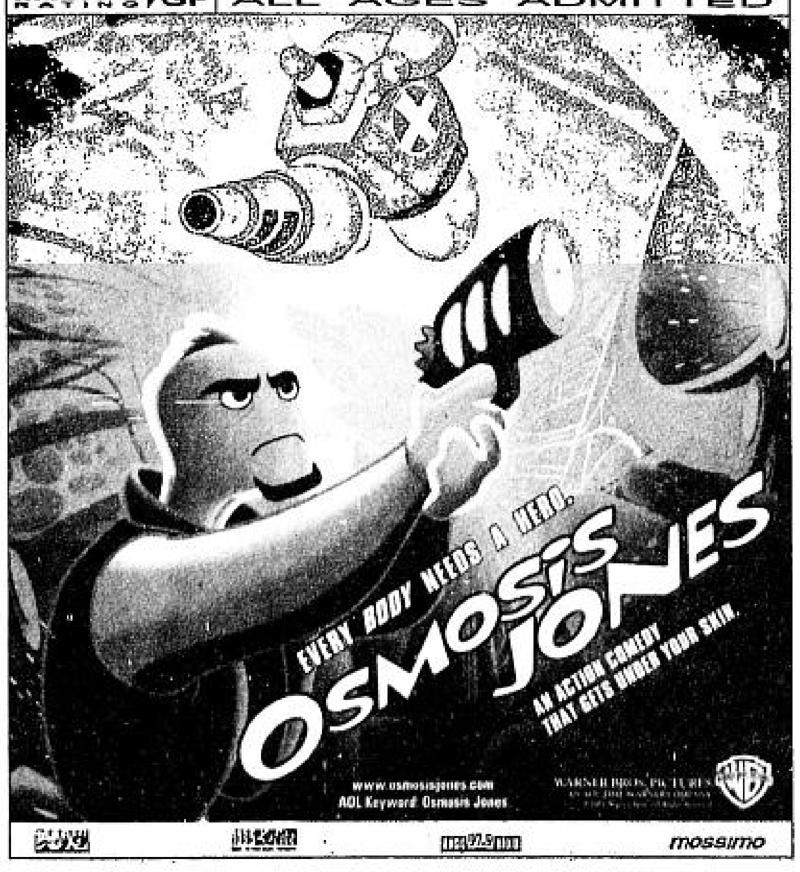

AMERICAN PIE 2
JIM • NADIA • MICHELLE • STIFLER • FINCH • KEVIN
VICKY • OZ • JESSICA • HEATHER • JIM'S DAD

THE OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES CONTINUE!
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING

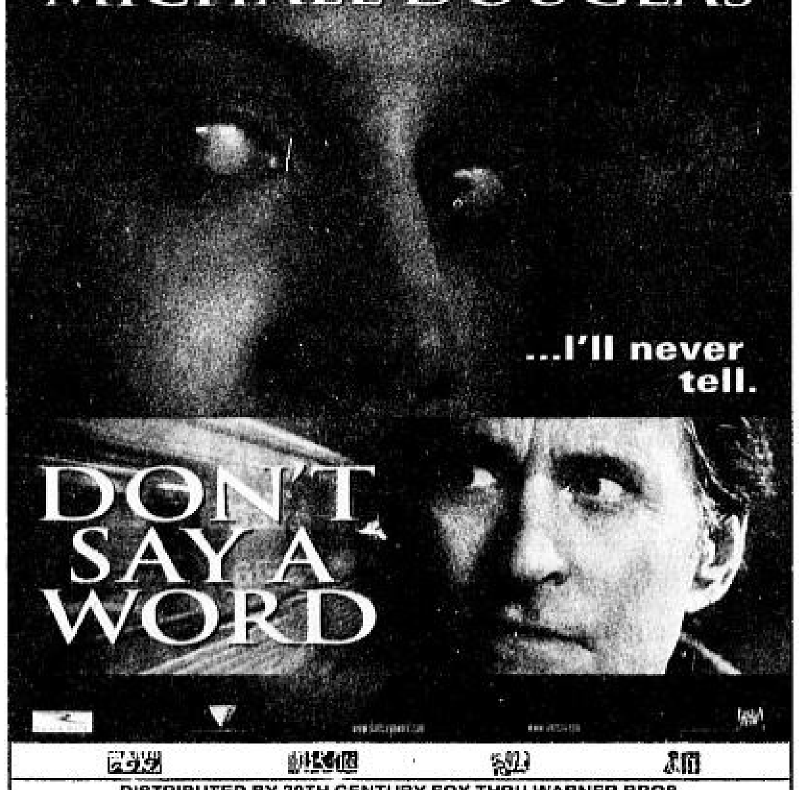
AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS TODAY
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
stuart TOWNSEND frances O'CONNOR charlotte BRADLEY & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.
about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue
Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.
Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

"KATE HUDSON SHINES!"
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING GP ALL AGES ADMITTED

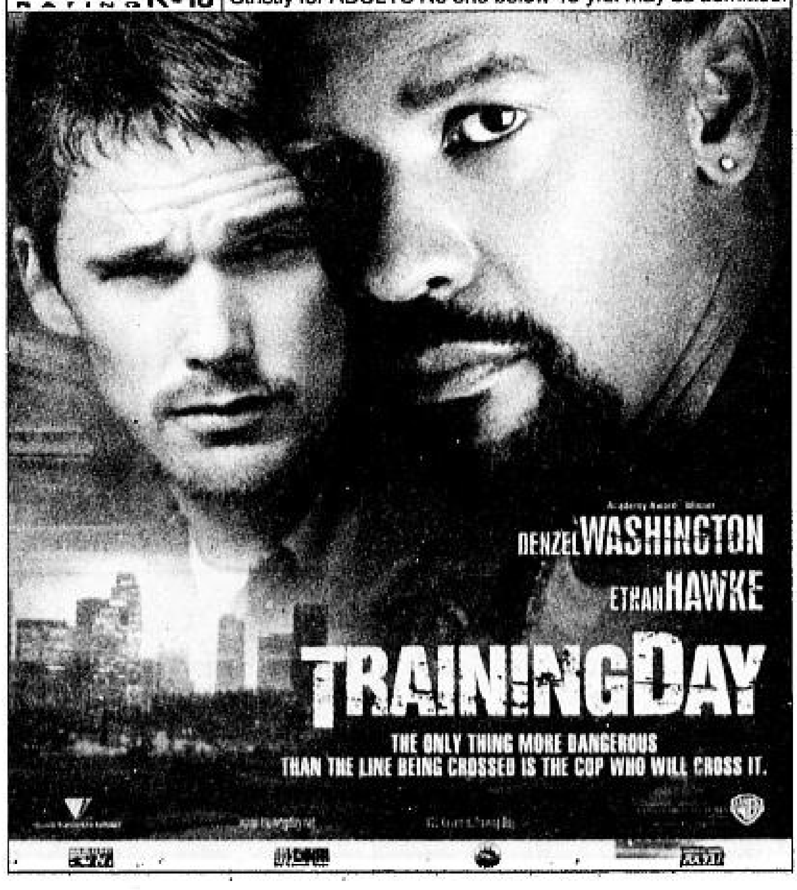

EVERY BODY NEEDS A HERO.
OSMOSIS JONES
AN ACTION COMEDY THAT GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN
www.osmosisjones.com
AOL Keyword: Osmosis Jones
WARNER BROS. PICTURES
mossimo

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes
THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA !
MICHAEL DOUGLAS


...I'll never tell.
DON'T SAY A WORD

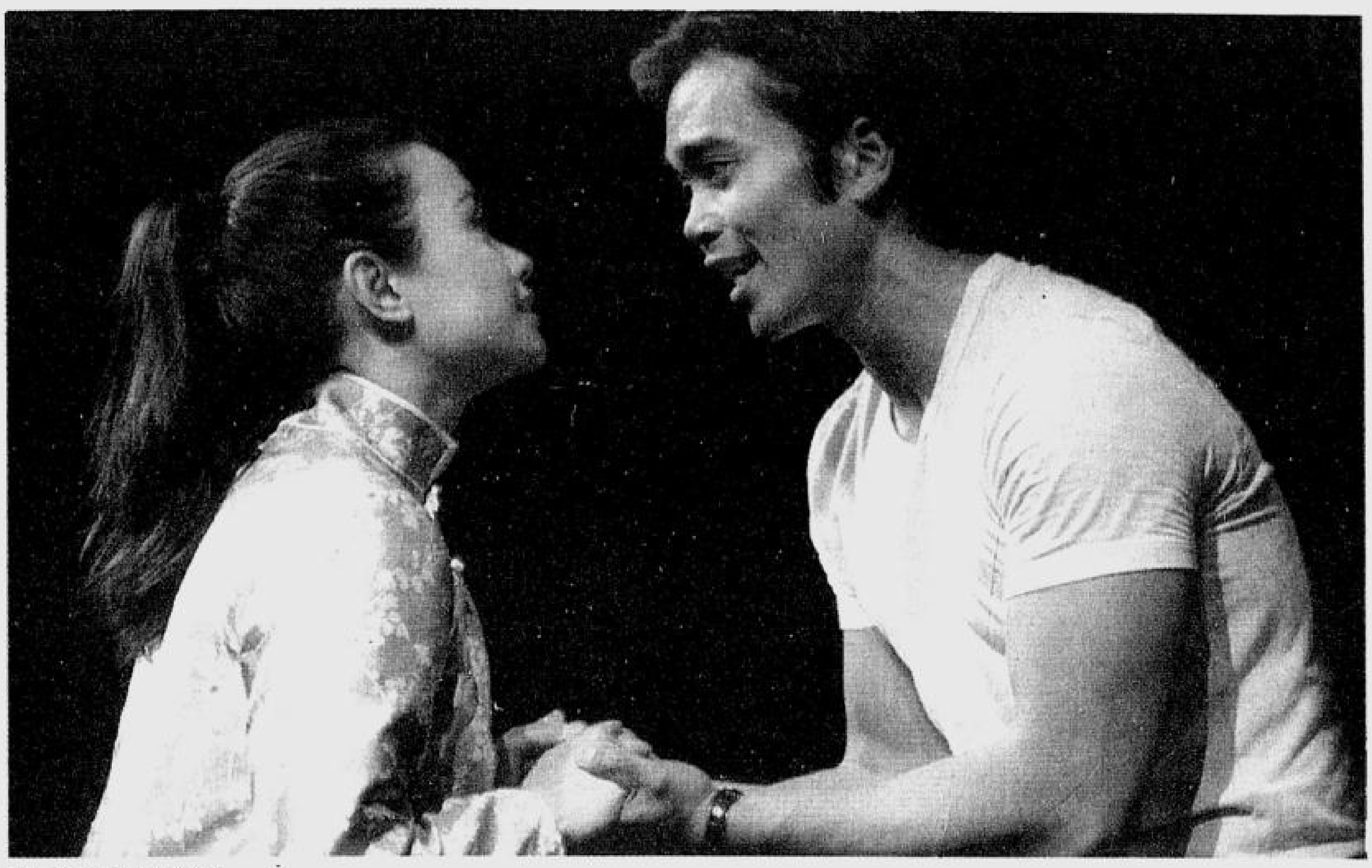
DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.
OPENS OCT. 31 AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE

OPENS OCTOBER 24!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


Academy Award Winner
DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE
TRAINING DAY
THE ONLY THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LINE BEING CROSSED IS THE COP WHO WILL CROSS IT.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



FAMILIAR SCENE

It's Leah Salonga again as an Asian character again in a musical again. She even earned a standing ovation again. This time, our Leah, the original Kim of "Miss Saigon," is Mei Li in "The Flower Drum Song," a reworking of the piece with music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein. The book by David Henry Hwang, however, is new, entirely different from the original Broadway and Hollywood versions. "Flower Drum Song" runs at the Mark Taper Forum of the Los Angeles Music Center until December 2.

80 films to be shown in Cinemanila int'l film festival in December

MOVIE lovers have a lot to look forward to in this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Cinemanila International will formally open on Dec. 6. Screening of films will start the next day and will go until Dec. 16.

An awards ceremony is also scheduled for Dec. 16.

Cinemanila was founded by Director Tikoy Aguiluz and is envisioned as the Sundance of Asia. It was formed to champion the causes of independent filmmaking, and to showcase films that challenge and stimulate the audience while expanding the boundaries of filmmaking and discovering new filmmaking talents.

The 3rd Cinemanila International Film Festival is jointly organized by the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines in association with Movpix International Inc.

Makati City hosts the festival.

The festival is divided into four sections: World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Philippine Cinema and Young Cinema.

Cinemanila will also hold a symposium on Asian-American films, digital cinema and a photo competition to be held at the Glorietta and Greenbelt malls.

A total of 80 films will be featured: 15 films in competition, 15 out of competition, 30 shorts, 10 digital.

Its special section will showcase films from Belgium, Czech Republic, Korea, Bangkok and Asian American films.

To be shown are Belgium's "No Man's Land," Singapore's "Return to Pontianak," Korea's "Chunh-yang," Russia's "The Wedding," USA's "Tammy Faye," Iran's "The Circle," the Netherlands' "Gas Station," Kyrgyzstan's "The Adopted Son," Japan's "Sunflower," Norway's "Detector," Spain's "Luna's Game," the Czech Republic's "Greedy Cuts," Fran-ce's "Amelie from Montemarte," Mexico's "Love's a Bitch," Argentina's "The Swamp," Ca-nada's "Possible World," and others.

The awards at stake are the Lino Brocka Award (Grand Prize), Best Actor, Best Actress, Grand Jury Prize, the Netpac/Fipresci Award (Critics Prize), Best Short, Best Documentary.

For the first time, an Ishmael Bernal Award will be given for the Best Filipino Short film.

New hits in Hollywood

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT are the hit films in Hollywood for the past six months?

Topping the list is DreamWorks' popular and critically-acclaimed cartoon feature, "Shrek," with a whopping $265.9 M gross after 21 weeks of release.

Also doing very well is "Rush Hour 2" with **Jacky Chan**. The New Line production has made $221.5 M in only 10 weeks of showing.

In third place is "American Pie 2" with $143.2 M in nine weeks of release.

Fourth, "The Princess Diaries" with **Julie Andrews**. The Disney movie has made $105.3 M in 10 weeks of showing.

"Legally Blonde" with **Reese Witherspoon** follows with a 13-week gross of $93.9 M.

For its part, the **Nicole Kidman** starrer, "The Others," has made $90.6 M for Miramax after nine weeks.

Among the newest releases, it's "Training Day" with **Denzel Washington** that bids fair to become a big hit. On its first week of release earlier this month, it grossed an impressive $22.6 M. If it keeps up this pace, it could end up making around $100 M, all told—the "official" gross figure for a big film hit in Hollywood.

Looking at these seven hit movies' showing, we can deduce that sequels continue to be popular with US audiences. As far as film types are concerned, the favored choices are decidedly mixed, with animation ("Shrek"), fantasy romance ("The Princess Diaries"), action ("Rush Hour 2" and "Training Day"), comedy ("American Pie 2"), horror/thriller ("The Others") and romantic comedy ("Legally Blonde") all clicking with movie fans. Variety is the spice!

In terms of stellar performance, these films' success has bolstered the careers of veteran stars like Jacky Chan, Julie Andrews and Denzel Washington. Andrews is the big surprise here, since her film career has been lackluster for many years now.

As for Nicole Kidman, her latest movie's strong showing is a confirmation of her popularity with viewers, earlier shown by her great success in "Moulin Rouge." Even more impressively, Kidman's roles in her two starrers are poles apart, so her versatility has been firmly established.

Finally, two new stars have made their mark—Reese Witherspoon with "Legally Blonde" and **Jason Biggs** with "American Pie 2." It's unusual for relatively new stars' movies to make over $90 million, but that's exactly what these young stars' films have done.

'To Dance with the White Dog'

ON Oct. 19 at 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel, "To Dance with the White Dog" tells the tender love story of **Sam Peek (Hume Cronyn)**, a fiercely independent southerner, and his wife of many years, **Cora (Jessica Tandy)**.

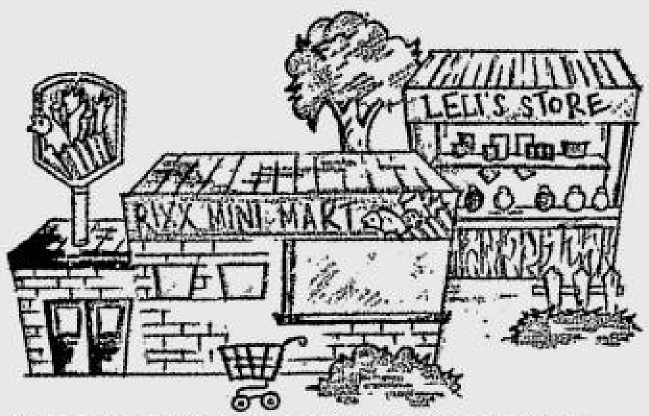
When Cora dies, a white dog that's never been seen in the area before mysteriously takes up with Sam. Since nobody seems to have seen the dog except Sam, his family fears for his mental well-being. Sam delights in keeping his family off-balance, so the white dog becomes a boon companion that helps him allay his grief for Cora.

Eventually, Sam takes the white dog on a nostalgic journey, during which he realizes how fulfilling his life with Cora has been.

Cronyn's acting career onstage and in the movies spanned more than 50 years. For her part, Tandy received a Best Actress Oscar for her title performance in "Driving Miss Daisy," which also won as Best Picture.

Director-producer **Glenn Jordan** has won six Emmy awards for his work in television, including the Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation "Promise," the Peabody Award-winning series "Benjamin Franklin," and, most recently, as producer of "Barbarian at the Gate."

Makikinabang sila dito...



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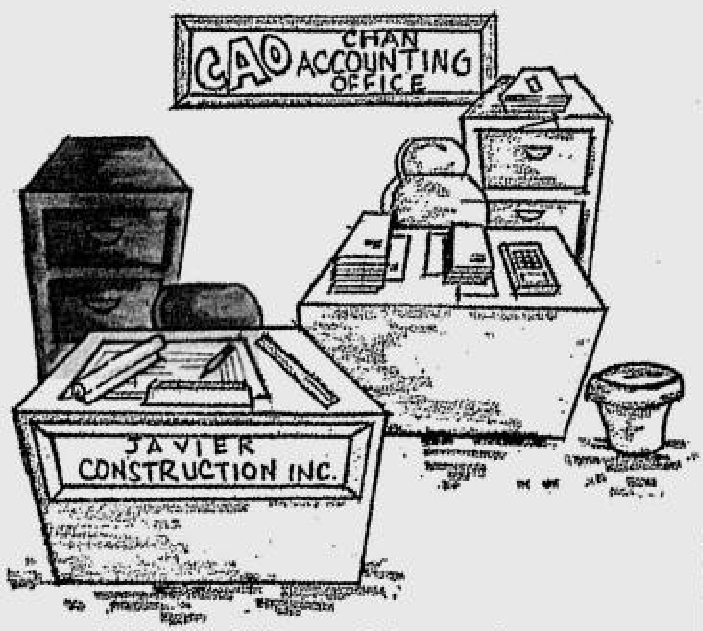

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BUSINESS

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Gov't to 'advance' Malampaya royalties

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TABANGAO, Batangas City—Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. yesterday said the government would be choosing by year's end an issue manager for the securitization of the royalties from the Malampaya natural gas project.

The project is expected to yield between $8 billion and $10 billion in government royalties over the next 20 years.

"We have formed a committee to handle the terms of reference for the securitization," Perez told reporters.

The secretary, who was here for the inauguration of the project, said the departments of energy and of finance were represented in the committee.

"We already have a shortlist of between six and eight investment houses that we may invite to submit proposals on this," he added.

The process of securitization will allow the government to get in advance its earnings from the Malampaya project by issuing next year debt instruments backed by the amount of royalties due the national government for the next 20 years.

Perez declined to name the investments houses, but he said these were based in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany and France.

He said the firms have expressed their interest in the program and these would be formally invited to submit proposals either late next month or early in December.

Perez said they were currently working on the appropriate structure on the securitization program.

Once the issue manager has been hired, the securitization process will start by the first or second quarter of 2002.

Perez identified two key points with which the securitization would be done.

First, a minimum of $500 million in government royalties should be securitized.

Second, the government "would sell some financial instruments" backed or secured by future national government royalties from Malampaya.

Perez added that the Malampaya project would benefit the government an additional $7.8 billion in savings on electricity, foreign exchange and environmental costs.

This means that using natural gas for power generation is cheaper not only because it is produced locally, but also because it is a clean type of fuel.

In her speech during the inauguration, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Malampaya project was seen to reduce the country's $3-billion oil import bill by $700,000 every year.

The government would also earn proceeds from the project through state firm PNOC Exploration Corp., which has a 10-percent stake in Malampaya.

Project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco Philippines Inc. both have 45 percent each.

SPECIAL REPORT

We should all get out and give way to pros

Page B6

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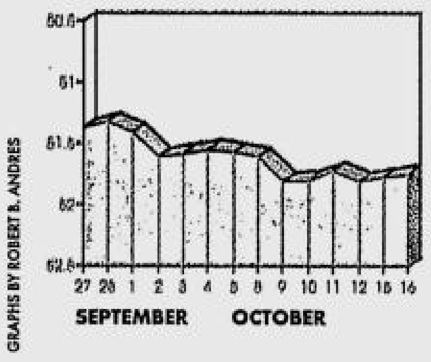

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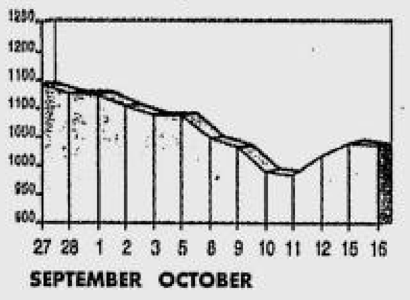

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday on profit-taking after rising for the last two sessions, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 4.89 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1035.91, after gaining 5.1 percent in the past two sessions.

"This was very mild profit-taking on thin volume," said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap.

Yap said the market remained hobbled by concerns over the possible consequences of the US-led military action against Afghanistan, the anthrax scare, and the US economic slowdown. The US is the top export market of the Philippines.

With uncertainty hounding financial markets worldwide, investors would rather invest in fixed income instruments or stay liquid, Yap said.

Local investors may hunt for bargains in the next session as they have done in the past two trading days, he added.

"But that would most likely be offset by foreign selling as foreign brokerage houses take advantage of the recent uptick in the market," he said. *AFP*

Megaworld eyeing Bonifacio project

MEGAWORLD Corp. said yesterday it was keen on acquiring Metro Pacific Corp.'s stake in the multibillion-peso Fort Bonifacio Global City project but would wait for market conditions to improve.

"We confirm Megaworld's interest in acquiring Metro Pacific's participation in the Fort Bonifacio project. However, it is a question of timing given the recent global conditions," Megaworld said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Megaworld issued the statement in reaction to a report on Monday, which said Megaworld was open to acquiring a stake in the Fort Bonifacio project being sold by Metro Pacific.

Metro Pacific, through unit Bonifacio Land Corp. (BLC), is jointly developing with the government the Fort Bonifacio Global City, an upscale residential and commercial district on the edge of the Makati financial district.

Megaworld did not participate in the bidding for development rights on an 18.96-hectare lot in the Global City, which BLC auctioned last September. Only one bidder, Ayala Land Inc., showed up for the auction but Metro Pacific rejected Ayala Land's P1.23-billion offer for the property, saying it was too low. *Reuters*

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Gov't raises ₱10B from sale of ₱35-B 'zero coupon bonds'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL government has raised P10 billion in cash from the fixed-income market yesterday after it issued P35 billion worth of 10-year zero coupon bonds, a first-of-its-kind debt notes where an investor's earnings are deducted ahead of the maturity.

Pleased with the auction results, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the fixed-income market still had a little over P100 billion of free funds that could invest in government securities, judging from the over-subscription to the zeroes.

"The market is very liquid and there is a lot of interest in this issue. It was four times over-subsribed," Edeza said. Total offers reached P137.08 billion and only P35 billion was accepted.

The borrowing carried a 12.75 percent yield-to-maturity. Simply put, if one invests P10 billion now, the amount would reach P35 billion after 10 years. Edeza said the government had planned to offer as much as P50 billion worth of 10-year zeroes to the market but eventually decided against it.

"We could have offered P50 billion but it would be at the risk of jeopardizing the maturity profile of our borrowings. This level of P35 billion is a more acceptable level that we are willing to pay 10 years from now," he said.

The treasurer explained that the new funds raised yesterday would be used by the government to help finance its estimated P145-billion budget deficit this year.

"The sign of a continued liquidity in the market gives us an assurance that the domestic market can still be tapped by the government for its financing for the rest of the year," he said.

Edeza said all domestic fund-raising exercises this year, including a P5-billion minimum issuance of retail treasury bonds, would be used to cover the current deficit.

All foreign borrowings, on the other hand, including a $250-million private bond issue by Credit Suisse First Boston, a $100-million treasury bill issuance to be handled by Citibank and an upcoming $500-million yen bond issue, are for next year's deficit.

The government could issue as much as P300 billion worth of zeroes in the local market. But Edeza said any further issuance of the zeroes would be made next year.

"We are not discounting any future issue this size. But for now, we are just testing the market," he said.

The Treasury can issue up to P300 billion worth each of bonds maturing in two, three, four, five, seven, and 10 years.

"This is in line with our intention to offer new products to the market. The zero coupon bond assures that the interest of an investor is re-invested," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

The finance chief explained that a zero coupon bond, unlike other debt notes, has no periodic interest payments. The yield for a zero coupon bond was already deducted from the amount that will be paid to the issuer.

For instance, for every P100 that the government will borrow through the new instrument maturing in two years, the government will end up only with about P80.

The amount representing the investor's interest was automatically reinvested and can only be collected upon maturity, the finance chief explained.

This type of borrowing could be cheaper for the government, he noted. The downside for an investor is that he is locked in until the instrument has matured.

HSBC SAVINGS BANK OPENS IN GREENHILLS

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura (middle) is shown with Paul Lawrence, chair of HSBC Savings Bank (Philippines) Inc. (left) and Charles Savage, deputy CEO of HSBC (right), at the formal launch of HSBC Savings Bank at the Greenhills Commercial Complex. Relocated from Shaw Boulevard, the branch was built to conform to the HSBC Group's global branch design standards. Over the past 10 months, the 16 branches of HSBC Savings Bank have been upgrading systems, refurbishing premises and training staff as part of the bank's integration into the HSBC Group. HSBC Savings Bank, formerly PCIB Savings Bank, was acquired by HSBC in December 2000.

RP seeks Japan guarantee on $500-M bond flotation

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is asking the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to guarantee its planned $500-million yen bond issue set for next month.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza met with officials of the Japanese bank late last week in Tokyo to discuss the guarantee that would effectively make the government's yen borrowing cheaper.

Edeza explained that while the government has already secured in principle a guarantee from Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, Japan Bank's international agreement with Nippon provides that the latter has the right of first refusal over any guarantee to be issued for yen borrowings.

"JBIC has the right of first refusal and only after it decides that it can't accommodate us, that's the time we go to Nexi. We will submit this week our written request to JBIC," the national treasurer said.

In his meeting with Japan Bank officials, Edeza explained that the Philippine government was trying to accelerate its borrowing requirement for next year and the yen loan was part of the package being frontloaded.

"We told them that the timing is important particularly after the Sept. 11 disaster. We want to do this borrowing in November and we hope the JBIC can accommodate us given such a short time," Edeza said.

The treasurer explained that given a choice, the Philippine government prefers to secure a Japan Bank guarantee since it provides a 100-percent cover compared to Nippon's 90 percent.

"With a guarantee, the pricing will be cheaper because our credit rating would be enhanced by some notches," Edeza said. The country's sovereign credit rating is below investment grade.

Edeza said the government would pursue with the yen bond issue to private investors or a Shibosai by November.

Three Japanese institutions led by Fuji Bank and Nomura Securities were named as the lead managers of the national government's $500-million, 10-year equivalent yen borrowing.

Edeza said the pricing of the loan was favorable to the government. He said the long-term maturity would also help improve the country's debt profile.

A well-placed source said a guarantee from Nippon would give the government borrowing an investment grade rating, which would bring down the spreads on its borrowing to a range even lower than the going rate of 2.8 to 3 percentage points over the yen interbank offered loan rate.

"The spreads in the Japanese market are favorable compared to the others. And we also want to diversify our sources of funding," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Of the government's P111-billion funding requirement next year, about $1.3 billion needs to be raised from foreign sources. Edeza said the finance department wanted to raise this year half or even the entire foreign funding needs for 2002.

Globe signs ₱663-M text deal

By Abigail L. Ho

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. has signed a P663-million contract with leading mobile Internet and messaging solutions provider CMG Wireless Data Solutions for additional storage and forwarding facility for its short messaging service (SMS).

Globe has been using CMG's Short Message Service Center (SMSC) since the first half of 1999, long before a deal was forged.

SMSC is the business-critical device of a successful SMS operation since it accepts, buffers, processes and distributes all short messages in a mobile network.

CMG's messaging solution can accept, buffer, process and distribute up to 2,500 mobile-originated text messages per second in a mobile network. It has the biggest capacity that can be obtained on a single platform.

"The advantage of having the CMG SMSCs is that we can have the capability to accommodate high SMS traffic over a few platforms. (Also), upgrades can easily be implemented through software only, thus allowing us a very fast time-to-market turnaround," said Ricky Silva, Globe's assistant vice president for VAS (value-added services)-product development.

The deal was signed by Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza and CMG senior vice president for global marketing and sales Frans Veen.

A two-year deferred payment scheme was arranged for the purchase.

"(This contract) expresses the commitment of both partners to build a long-term relationship. Globe has been very successful in the Philippines over the last two years, which proves the perfect fit of both parties in the messaging market. We are confident that our solutions will continue to contribute to Globe's messaging success," Veen said.

CMG Wireless Data Solutions is the leading global supplier of messaging, mobile Internet and customer care and billing solutions for the wireless industry. It has delivered more than 200 of these solutions to over 100 operators worldwide.

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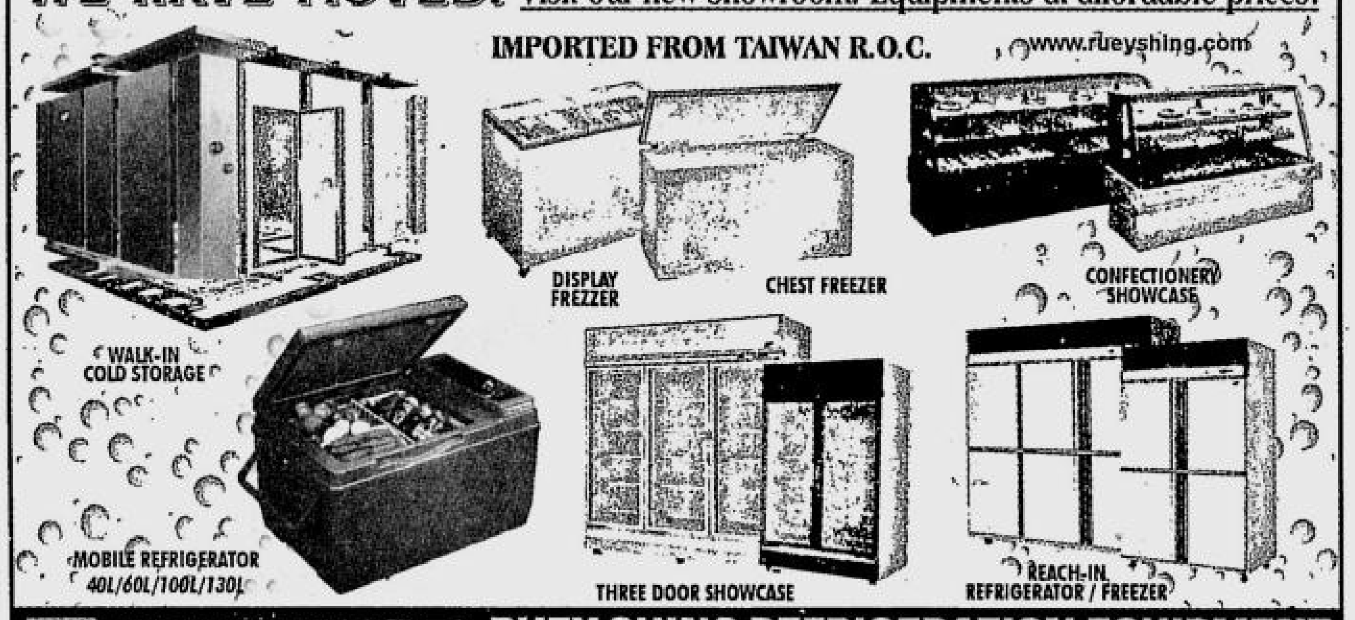

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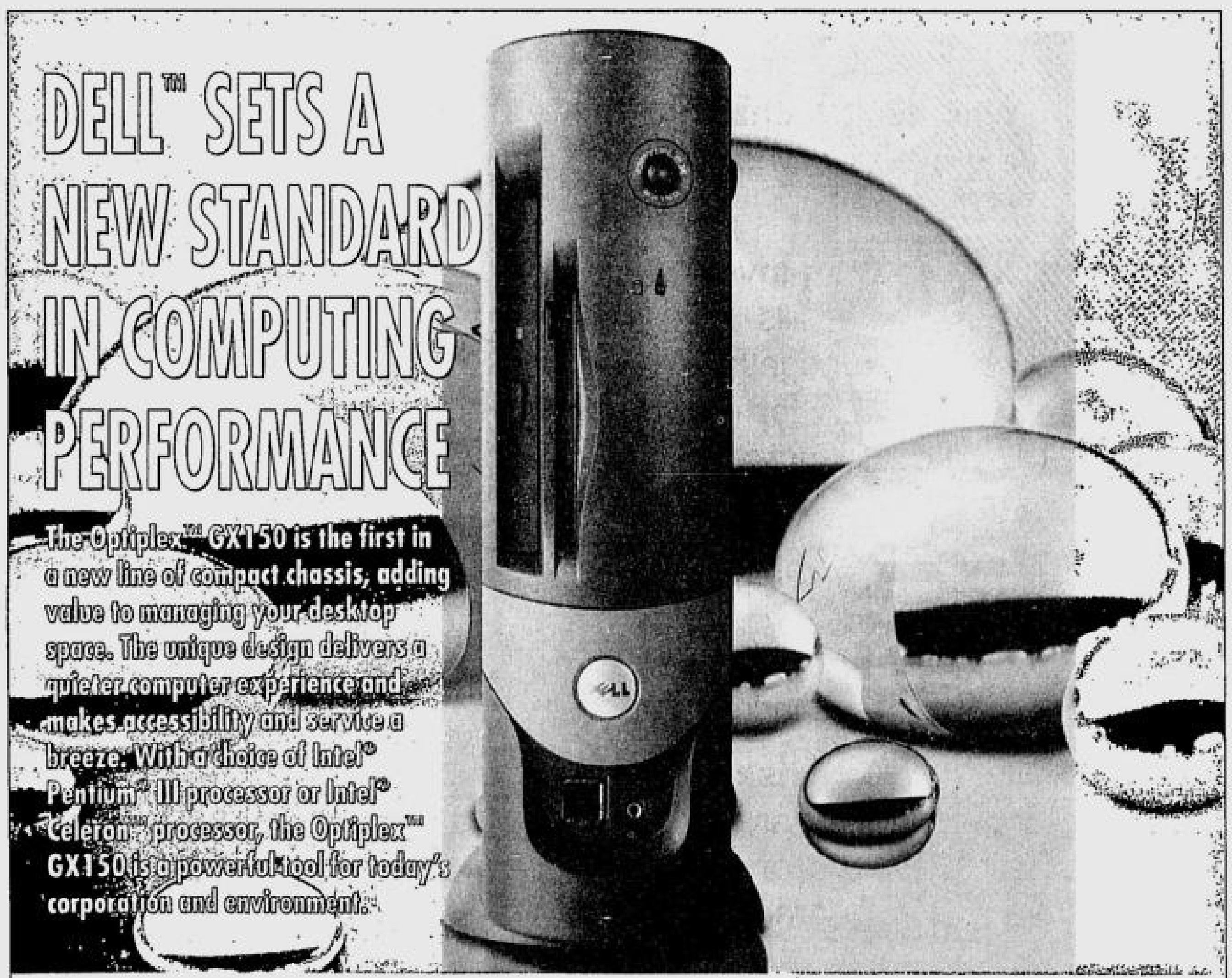

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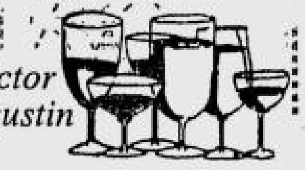
COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



Payback time

PUBLICLY the Macapagal-Arroyo appointed board members of the Cultural Center of the Philippines say they are on a "healing" mode.

Privately, however, the daggers are still drawn, and the knifing still continues.

Armita Rufino, who resigned the CCP presidency to give way to GMA nominee Nestor Jardin, has just been denied by the new board whatever retirement pay may be due her for her two-and-a-half-year stint.

According to Jardin, Rufino's appointment by the Estrada administration and her subsequent service "was not in accordance with the pertinent provision of the CCP Charter."

Instead, the CCP board headed by Baltazar Endriga decided to offer Rufino and her husband free tickets to CCP performances, provided the couple inform Jardin's office before any show.

Despite declaring Rufino's appointment as illegitimate, the Endriga board ruled that the P190 million or so that Rufino and her board had wangled from the Estrada administration and its cronies was above board and decided to keep it.

In other words, the procurer may be illegitimate, but the money is legit.

MVP's departure

COUNTLESS clarifications notw'thstanding, the rumor about Manuel V. Pangilinan's alleged impending departure from PLDT and/or Metro Pacific still would not die that a reader so bothered by the talks decided to send the following letter to *Cocktales*.

"I do not know MVP personally and I have never worked for him or with him but I do have a very true story for you.

"Last year when I was still working for a small Australian engineering company, we procured 25 Smart cell phones. Almost every month at least 10 of our cell phones would get cut off. The reason for the cut was the very low credit line (P5,000/month).

COCKTALES/B4

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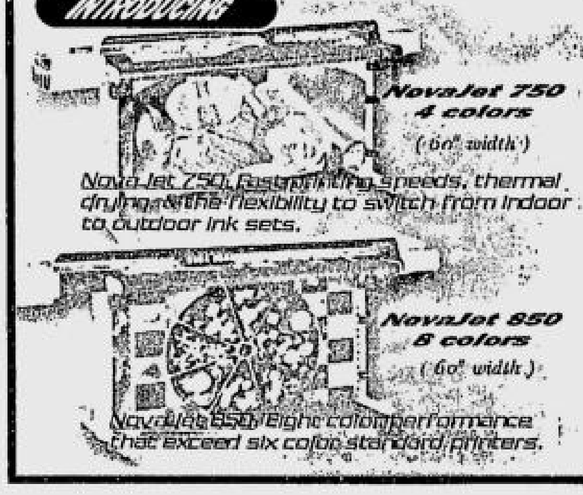
PC EXPRESS 772-2282 (Alabang) 726-0698 (Shaw) • 725-4383 (Gilmore)
PC GAMERS' CORNER 723-1718 723-1737
3PC 727-9728
DIAMOND DREAMCHUM The PC Specialist 723-2960
• ASTRAL DATA SYSTEM, Inc. 372-8914 to 18



RETAIL TREASURY BONDS
ISSUER
Republic of the Philippines
SELLING AGENTS
BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
Tel. Nos. 636-0961 / 636-6060 loc. 215; 483
BPI Capital Corporation
Tel. No. 845-5696 / 845-5698
DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines
Tel. No. 893-3511 / 818-9511
loc. 2436; 2415; 2407; 2439
PCI Capital Corporation
Tel. No. 840-7000
SELLING AGENTS / ISSUE COORDINATORS
FIRST METRO
Investment Corporation
Tel. Nos.: 840-5751 to 56 (Makati Office)
241-2301 to 07 (Binondo Office)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos.: 812-6807 / 814-0204
Coupon Rate
14.25% p.a.
Offering Period
October 22-26, 2001
Re-issue Date
November 4, 2001
Maturity Date
May 4, 2005
Minimum Investment
PhP5,000.00
RETAIL TREASURY BONDS (RTBs)
1. What are RTBs?
These are Government Securities principally for retail investors which will mature on May 4, 2005 for which coupon or yield shall be paid on a quarterly basis.
2. Why should an investor invest in RTBs?
Because the RTBs are issued by the Republic of the Philippines, they are risk free (payment guaranteed), high yielding, tradeable and affordable.
3. Who can purchase RTBs?
Any investor who has at least PhP5,000.00 can purchase RTBs.
4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. Additional requirements for institutional investors are copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures.
5. After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?
Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
6. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?
Because they are the direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines, RTBs are RISK FREE (payment guaranteed).
7. What is an investor's proof of ownership?
The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).
8. Where can an investor purchase RTBs?
An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

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Sugar firm buys back shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro, the holding company of the Batangas-based Roxas family, has embarked on a share repurchase program to take advantage of low prices in the battered stock market.

Joining other companies moving to pick up their own stocks from the sluggish market, CADP assistant corporate secretary Florencio Mamauag Jr. yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the company had bought back 100,000 common shares at 76 centavos each on Friday.

This is part of a buyback program recently approved by the company's board of directors. CADP is planning to repurchase a total of 12.5 million out of its 976.4 million listed shares from the open market within the next six months.

Aside from taking advantage of low share prices, the company's decision to buy back company shares is aimed at generating treasury shares, which could later be distributed as dividends to stockholders.

Companies usually resort to a share buyback program if they believe their shares are undervalued by the market. However, only listed companies with sufficient retained earnings are allowed by the PSE to repurchase their own shares.

Since companies do not pay dividends on treasury-held shares, a share buyback program results in an improvement in the price-earnings ratio.

Among the other companies which have been buying back shares from the market or have announced intentions to do so include San Miguel Corp., Jollibee Foods Corp., JG Summit Holdings, Alaska Milk Corp., SM Prime Holdings Inc., ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp., William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. and Centro Escolar University.

CADP is currently being consolidated with Central Azucarera dela Carlota (CAC), another listed sugar firm owned by the Roxas family. The family has agreed to concentrate all sugar-related businesses into CAC while CADP would be transformed into an investment holding company to be renamed Roxas Holdings Inc.

The Roxas family, one of the biggest private property developers in Batangas, is expected to fold in its existing property businesses and other possible new ventures into the new holding firm.

At present, CAC is a cane and sugar producer based in Bacolod while CADP is a sugar manufacturing conglomerate in Batangas.

As part of the consolidation, the disclosure said CADP would spin off its Batangas sugar business, except land, in favor of Phoenix Sugar Corp. in exchange for shares in the latter. The stake in Phoenix will then be transferred to CAC.

Aside from Phoenix, CADP will also transfer to CAC its stake in related businesses CADP Consultancy Services Inc. and CADP Farm Services Inc. to CAC.

CAC, for its part, will issue 1.3 billion common shares to CADP out of an increased authorized capital stock consisting of 2 billion shares at a par value of P1 each. This means that CADP, once transformed into a holding firm, would own 65 percent of CAC.

The consolidation of the family's core sugar businesses into CAC is expected to help the company attract fresh capital for expansion. On the other hand, the spin-off will allow the family to tap the other listed unit for other businesses.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

"For weeks I called and wrote about our problem, only to get lip service. Out of sheer desperation, I called up PLDT and asked for MVP's direct line. I talked to MVP's secretary (very courteous lady, but I can't remember her name) and asked for MVP's fax. I wrote MVP about how disappointed I was with their service and our plan to cut our ties with Smart and switch to Globe.

"I remember I faxed my complaint at 11:15 a.m. At about 11:45 a.m., while having my lunch, I got a call from MVP himself. I nearly choked on my food. MVP apologized for the problem and said he would take care of it. He also requested in a very humble tone that we reconsider our decision to leave Smart. Needless to say, after that phone call, we definitely stuck it out with Smart.

"I am now embarrassed to say that it was actually our fault that the lines kept getting cut. Our idiotic admin manager did not want to increase our credit line . . .

"It would be a sad, sad day in Philippine business if people like MVP leave the country. If somebody like MVP can not make it in the Philippines, then I seriously doubt if anybody else can."

Louie Malixi, Manager-Environmental, Maunsell Philippines Inc.

(If Malixi's surname rings a bell, it is because he is a son of the former Napocor chair.)

A hazard called Edsa

THE CONSTRUCTION of the MRT line in the middle of Epifanio delos Santo Avenue has transformed Metro Manila's premier highway into a dangerously designed road with the entire center lanes now misaligned or have entirely disappeared altogether.

These anomalies get specially pronounced right after the Ortigas and Cubao underpasses, where, after emerging the dark dungeons, the centermost (overtaking) lane shrinks and disappears without "road narrows/lane ends" signs.

Instead of warning the motorists about the hazards, the newly painted lane markers even contribute to the vehicular traps. The fast lane marking ends right smack on the center island!

Heard through the grapevine

STOCKBROKER Vivian Yuchengco has formed a slate to try to break the monopolistic stranglehold over the Baguio Country Club in next month's stockholders' meeting.

Yuchengco's main beef is that the ordinary members of the club have been underwriting the litigation costs of the Ilusorio family feud, as all the Ilusorio lawyers had been made BCC officers and their PR budgets regularly charged to the club. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

UNIONBANK
SSS-Makati Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Herrera St., Makati City

A full-service universal bank with 118 branches
A partnership among the Aboitiz Group, Insular Life Assurance Co. and Social Security System

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 21, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	808,899,471
Due from Bangko Sentral		840,970,030
Due from Other Banks		9,873,311,129
Interbank Loans Receivable		644,444,499
Trading Account Securities (Net)		937,158,471
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		14,985,113,107
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,610,366,231
Equity Investments (Net)		334,799,821
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,161,157,540
Other Assets (Net)		8,306,190,840
Property Owned/Acquired		5,100,227,273
Others		3,205,963,567
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,502,411,139
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,621,605,133
Savings Deposits		11,619,301,775
Time Deposits		11,250,280,315
Special/Other Deposits		20,585,809
Due to Bangko Sentral		11,467,056
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		692,888,424
Bills Payable:		5,558,738,112
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		4,267,604,306
Others		1,272,088,138
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		561,822,903
Other Liabilities		3,611,644,592
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	40,948,334,119
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,415,241,327
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,554,077,020
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,502,411,139
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	338,917,915
Bills for Collection		134,474,697
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,491,022,637
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,437,199,005
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,494,576,811
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,267,339,718
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		207,006,308
Loans & Discounts		14,326,722
Other Assets		3,005,904,063
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,381,954,838
Common Trust Funds		227,799,049
Investment/Fund Management		884,822,924
Other Contingent Accounts		79,112,976
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	15,975,304,041

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P.	297,700,717
b) Banks		116,863,751
c) Trust Department		1,816,516,025
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		255.00%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		327.00%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		3,227,294,939
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		19.08%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		5,842,516,926
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		467,839,232
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		1,184,361,817
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		8.45%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		360,891,210
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		2.13%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		-
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		-

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Guia C. Lim of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) GUIA C. LIM
Executive Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of October 2001, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 03496737 issued at Manila on January 30, 2001 and Community Tax No. 09759830 issued at Manila on March 20, 2001, respectively.

Doc. No. 043
Page No. 009
Book No. XI
Series of 2001.

GREGORIO M. YARANON, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2002
PTR NO. 0489838
JAN. 26, 1999
MAKATI CITY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 21, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	809,190,008
Due from Bangko Sentral		840,970,030
Due from Other Banks		9,873,311,129
Interbank Loans Receivable		644,444,499
Trading Account Securities (Net)		957,340,934
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		14,985,113,107
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,296,086,976
Equity Investments (Net)		78,811,213
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,168,901,546
Other Assets (Net)		8,816,966,899
Property Owned/Acquired		5,100,227,273
Others		3,716,739,626
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,471,136,341
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,534,757,383
Savings Deposits		11,619,301,775
Time Deposits		11,250,280,315
Special/Other Deposits		20,585,809
Due to Bangko Sentral		11,467,056
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		692,888,424
Bills Payable:		5,559,238,112
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		4,267,604,306
Others		1,272,588,138
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		561,822,903
Other Liabilities		3,666,717,544
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	40,917,059,321
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,415,241,327
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,554,077,020
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,471,136,341
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		-
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	338,917,915
Bills for Collection		134,474,697
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,491,022,637
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,437,199,005
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,494,576,811
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,267,339,718
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		207,006,308
Loans & Discounts		14,326,722
Other Assets		3,005,904,063
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Common Trust Funds		227,799,049
Investment/Fund Management		884,822,924
Other Contingent Accounts		79,112,976
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	15,975,304,041

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	297,700,717
b) Banks		116,863,751
c) Trust Department		1,816,516,025

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
b) UBP Capital Corporation
c) UBP Securities, Inc.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Guia C. Lim of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) GUIA C. LIM
Executive Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of October 2001, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 03496737 issued at Manila on January 30, 2001 and Community Tax No. 09759830 issued at Manila on March 20, 2001, respectively.

Doc. No. 044
Page No. 009
Book No. XI
Series of 2001.

GREGORIO M. YARANON, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2002
PTR NO. 0489838
JAN. 26, 1999
MAKATI CITY

www.unionbankph.com

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, October 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	310,500
China Banking Corp.	550	550	530	530	1,690
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.25	18.5	17.75	17.75	124,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	181	181	178	179	22,200
Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	48	48.5	400,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	3,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1290	1290	1290	280
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1060	1050	1055	3,480
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	600	590	590	20,060
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3.45	3	3.45	13,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	377.5	380	375	377.5	73,260
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.4	0.4	330,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.019	0.017	0.018	92,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	22,600
Manila Electric Co. B	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	715,700
Petron Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	3,030,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.36	1.36	1.26	1.26	3,202,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	300,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	100,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	11,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	90,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	364,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	2,400
RFM Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.92	1.98	405,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	101,900
San Miguel Corp. B	45	45	43	44.5	277,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.2	3,526,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	102,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	1,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.79	0.79	12,700,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	2,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	200,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.25	314,400
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6	6	6	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	350,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	690,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	1,000,000
Music Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.39	1,190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.78	450,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10	311,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	760,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	842,200
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.005	0.0055	94,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	9.5	8.5	9.5	6,000
Far Eastern University	300	300	300	300	1,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.15	4.3	4.15	4.25	14,157,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	1,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.22	1.26	12,038,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	370,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.6	0.86	0.6	0.86	130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5,252,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	50,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	3,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.024	0.024	0.022	0.022	7,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,630,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	887,450	44,825,500.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	230,108,720	162,856,340.00
PRO	33,757,000	103,379,410.00
Mining	10,283,000	812,620.00
OIL	4,170,000	53,500.00
GRAND TOTALS :	279,206,170	311,927,370.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	416.94	DOWN 2.95
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,467.90	DOWN 14.86
PRO	425.36	UP 7.96
Mining	1,011.70	DOWN 1.93
OIL	1.40	DOWN 0.08
All Shares Index	657.53	DOWN 3.38
Composite	1,035.91	DOWN 4.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86; NO. OF TRADES: 2,219

CURRENCIES

Oct. 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.100473	1.000000	51.7810
Japan	Yen	0.009106	0.008275	0.4285
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594586	1.449000	75.0307
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141268	0.128370	6.6471
Switzerland	Franc	0.676756	0.614968	31.8437
Canada	Dollar	0.706609	0.642096	33.2484
Singapore	Dollar	0.607996	0.552486	28.6083
Australia	Dollar	0.564925	0.513347	26.5816
Bahrain	Dinar	2.919182	2.652661	137.3574
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293460	0.266667	13.8083
Brunei	Dollar	0.604059	0.548908	28.4230
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000101	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024702	0.022447	1.1623
UAE	Dirham	0.299693	0.272331	14.1016
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000776	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.908700	47.0534
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.464611	24.0580
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138530	7.1732
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.412350	21.3519
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066038	3.4195
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022526	1.1664
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000469	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152832	7.9138
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004533	0.2347
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005461	0.2828
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022526	1.1664
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.153811	59.7455

War lifts Lepanto production

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Corp. said yesterday its gold production hit a record high last month as demand for the precious metal soared following terrorist attacks in the United States.

In a disclosure, Lepanto, one of the country's oldest mining firms, told the Philippine Stock Exchange that its September gold production reached an all-time high of 15,880 ounces, exceeding its previous record of 15,760 ounces posted in November last year.

Mining sector analysts said mining companies were stepping up gold production to take advantage of uncertainties linked to a terror scare in the United States and an ongoing military campaign by Western nations against the Talibans in Afghanistan.

Gold prices have been rising since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington as investors begin shifting to commodities and cash while dumping equities as a hedge against an increasingly difficult economic environment.

Analysts say mining companies are likely to buck the downtrend in equities markets worldwide.

Lepanto reported that its gold production amounted to 46,998 ounces in the third quarter, up 10 percent year-on-year.

Silver and copper production during the July-September period also grew, the company said.

Silver production went up by 62 percent year-on-year to 187,760 ounces, while copper output rose 13 percent to 638,140 ounces.

With production rising, Lepanto reported a third-quarter net income before extraordinary items of P173 million, up 10 percent compared to last year's figure.

The company also posted a 14-percent improvement in its average cash production cost to $131 per ounce of gold from the same period last year's $153 per ounce.

The mining industry is seen reaping windfall profits from the US war against terrorism as global demand for metals used to build bombs and ammunition is expected to soar.

A global arms buildup is "staring the mining industry in the face," Neoman de la Cruz, Cordillera director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said in a report earlier.

Gold prices have soared from an average $240 (P12,432) per ounce to $292 per ounce since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The demand would immediately resurrect some of the country's oldest and biggest mines (like Benguet Corp. and Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.), which were forced to shut down key mining operations due to a market slowdown as early as 1988," he said.

Ramcar to pay debts in kind

RAMCAR Inc. is planning to settle over P5 billion out of its P8-billion debt under payment-in-kind arrangements, an official of one of the battery-maker's creditors told INQUIRER.

Several commercial banks extended loans to the Ramcar group of businessman Manolo Augustines on the assumption that the group had only P2 billion in debts. The banks found out later that the group owed about P8 billion.

In a bid to convince creditors to accept property and other assets as debt payments, Ramcar asserted that it could only operate viably with a debt level of P2 billion, the banker said.

Ramcar is securing new loans to upgrade its factory in preparation for a government plan to lower tariffs on imported batteries by 2003.

Ramcar, one of the country's oldest manufacturing companies, controls two-thirds of the domestic car battery market through its Oriental and Motolite brands. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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Ericsson set to spin off service unit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SWEDISH phone giant Ericsson has spun off its service outfit in the Philippines to address the growing problems of local telecommunication service providers.

Ericsson Telecommunications Inc. president and chief executive Robert Etteborn said the spin-off was made to give providers of mobile phone and wireline services a more focused solution to their problems in the post-boom period.

"We can address the clients' problems better because we don't treat services as a sidekick business anymore," Etteborn said.

After going through a phenomenal growth phase were the growth of subscribers far exceeded capacity, Etteborn said telecommunication providers would now have to deal with boosting their technical savvy and solving their persistent congestion problems.

These problems have become even more pressing considering the fast-changing technology in the industry, which is expected to become even more sophisticated with the introduction of the next generation of communication equipment in the local market.

The market has been slow in embracing this new technology because potential users have been turned off by the frequent drop calls and slow download times.

Etteborn said Ericsson formed Ericsson Services Philippines to build up its local expertise in telecommunications consultancy to meet the needs of the information and communication technology market which the Internet Data Center is expected to reach $5 billion in 2002 in the Philippines.

Despite crisis, Rolls Royce still hopeful

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Bureau

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Top British aircraft engine maker Rolls Royce Plc remains optimistic about its aero repair and overhaul venture here despite what its managing director, Ian Lloyd, has called "undoubtedly uncertain times for the aviation industry."

Lloyd said Rolls Royce's facility here, the first in East Asia and the 17th in the company's global network, was part of efforts to "ensure that we are in a strong position for the future."

"But we must and will continue to invest in our people and our processes, and draw on the skills and expertise of our partners in this challenging business," he said.

Clark, according to him, was chosen as the site of its latest venture because of its "economically favorable conditions."

"We anticipate and welcome the arrival of other companies into this area as many realize the benefits of investing here in a region with immense growth potential," Lloyd said.

The Rolls Royce Engine Services Limitada facility here, located at the Berthaphil business complex, is a joint venture with the Philippine Aero Development Corp.

The 1,110-square-meter facility, operated on an initial investment of $798,750, serves as a one-stop shop for the repair and maintenance of Model 250 helicopter engines initially for the Philippine military fleet and commercial customers.

Gov't set to sell ₱42B in mortgage

THE GOVERNMENT has started preparing the disposition of P42 billion worth of home mortgage under the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. It may also unload as much as P100 billion in loans if other state-run corporations are included.

A person familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER that, in the next two weeks, the government might appoint a financial adviser for the loans disposal. Eleven groups, including Cap Gemini, Ernst & Young, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch, were being considered, he said.

The government hopes to recover value from its home loans, possibly through the creation of an asset management company or securitization of the assets, to raise money and jumpstart the ailing housing sector.

A government official privy to the preparations said the government would send to investment houses, banks and similar groups a request for a proposal to be its adviser on the disposal of P42 billion worth of housing loans under the NHMFC.

Earlier initiatives to get a financial advisor failed because the finance department wanted more groups to submit proposals.

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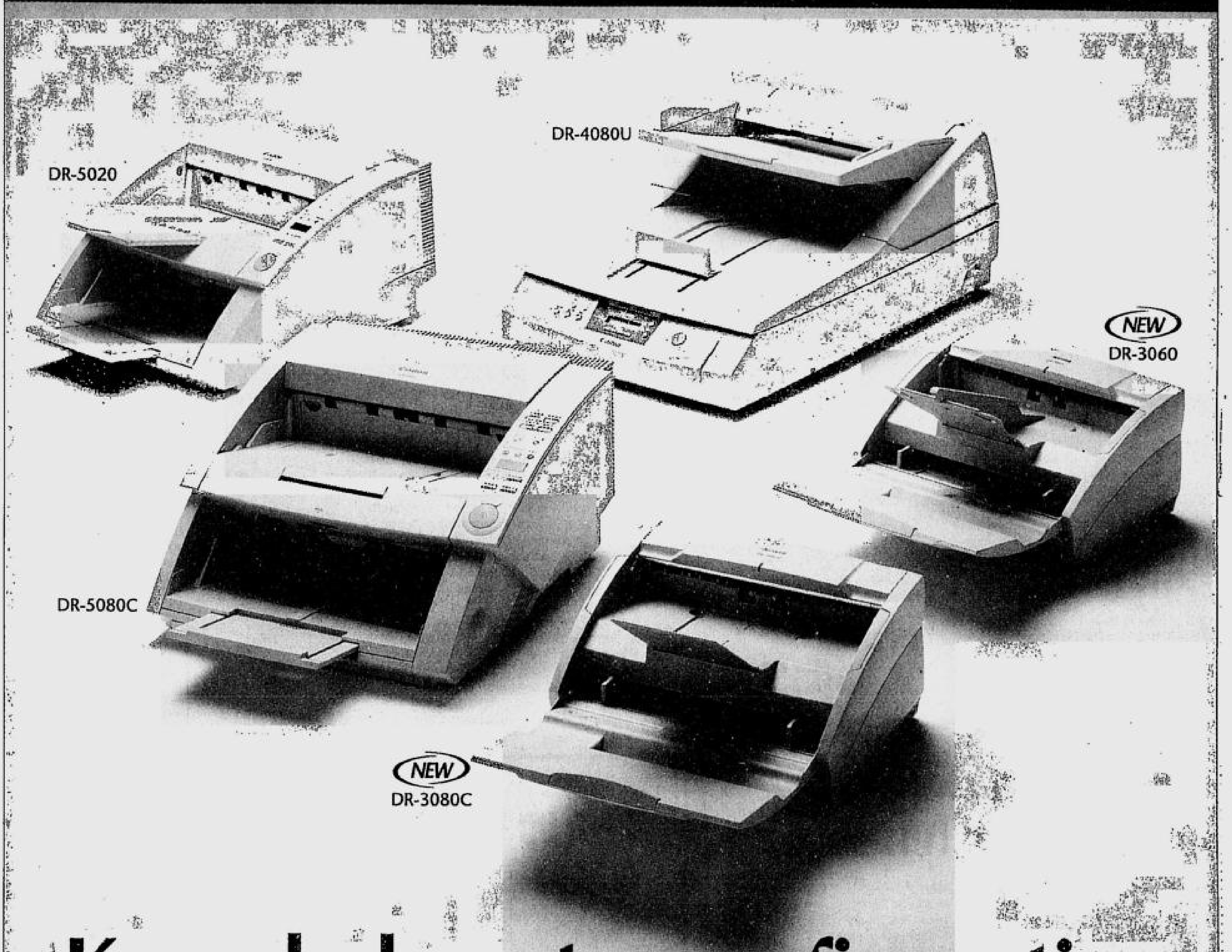

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PHILCOMSAT'S POBLADOR

We should all get out and give way to pros

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

"WE should all get out of here and clear the way for professionals."

The call was made by Honorio Poblador III, currently one of the directors of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. to his fellow officers in the Philcomsat board. He was president of the telecommunications firm from 1986 to 1998.

According to Poblador, it was time to "hire professionals to sit for us (in the board), professionals who can give a vision to the company and get it moving."

"I challenge all those in the board to get out of it. If shareholders can't stick together, like what's going on now, then where are we going? A disunited company is not going anywhere," he told the INQUIRER.

Philcomsat "right now is a disunited company," Poblador acknowledged.

Times have changed, Poblador noted. "Technology has bypassed all of us, including me. We're all ignorant, and we cannot afford to go through a learning period because the world will not wait for us."

"Up to a few years ago, even when (the late Potenciano) Ilusorio was still alive, those in the Philcomsat board were mostly octogenarians. We're in the analog age. That's why, I said, let's all get out of this company," he said. The Ilusorio family is one of the major shareholders of the firm.

Poblador said it was "time to get to the serious work of letting somebody else to mind the store, clear the way to professionals. *Di wala pang away, di ba?* Why are we expending our efforts fighting? Our lawyers are getting rich and media has something to write about."

He believes Philcomsat should have "professionalized" last year. "Two thousand would have been the best time. I don't know if we still have time."

Too late the hero

But Ronaldo Salonga, chair of one of "two" Philcomsat boards, dismissed Poblador's call as "too late the hero."

"He should have done it when they took over in the mid-1980s. The challenge to professionalize Philcomsat was already taken up by the Nieto-Salonga board long before Poblador's belated call. When we commenced management of the firm after our Aug. 27, 1998 special stockholders' meeting, our members immediately recognized the necessity of streamlining the firm's organizational structure to achieve full efficiency," Salonga said.

According to Salonga, Philcomsat had implemented, among other "management moves," a special retirement plan, availed by 76 out of 179 employees; a mandatory retirement age at 65 years; and, a freeze on hiring of new staff to "efficiently utilize its existing human resources."

"It cannot be overemphasized that the Nieto-Salonga board was only able to actually manage the company for two years, most of which were devoted to liberating the firm from the ill-effects of the unsound and questionable investments made by the Poblador board, just to assure the returns on the investments or, at the very least, protect the interest of Philcomsat," he said.

Salonga voluntarily resigned in October 2000 as president and chair of the government-sequestered Independent Realty Corp. group of companies. He is chair of the "other" Philcomsat board where Manuel Nieto Jr., former ambassador to Spain, is president.

The directors of the Nieto-Salonga board are Benito Araneta, Edgardo Villanueva, Carmelo Africa, Honorio Poblador III, Katrina Ponce Enrile, Lourdes Africa (who is also treasurer), and the late Potenciano Ilusorio. Lawyer Luis Lokin Jr. is the corporate secretary.

Only one board

When interviewed, Poblador stressed that Philcomsat "needs to be unified both in terms of its owners—its shareholders—so it can have a vision for the company, especially nowadays when its global competition is so harsh."

The Philcomsat board where Poblador sits as director is composed of the following: Carmelo Africa Jr., chair and president; Pacifico Marcelo III, Federico Agcaoili, Edgardo Villanueva, Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner, Francisca Benedicto-Paulino and Katrina Ponce Enrile, directors; Amado Santiago Jr., corporate secretary; Cristina Agcaoili-Ilusorio, assistant corporate secretary; and Sylvia Ilusorio, treasurer.

Nieto did not accept his appointment as director of the board.

Poblador insisted there was "only one board. Some say there are two but not according to the Supreme Court. That has already been decided about a month or two ago. The court said that the Erap board that took over two years ago did it illegally."

But the Nieto-Salonga group said otherwise. "This can be seen in Philcomsat Holdings Corp., wherein all Philcomsat nominees are appointees of the Nieto-Salonga board. Ronnie Salonga and Benito Araneta are still sitting as directors, and the bulk of the funds is with that company. In essence the Nieto-Salonga board is holding the purse and what the Butch Africa group is actually trying to hold on to is the headquarters," said one of Nieto's lawyers.

In the POTC board, meanwhile, Victor Africa "supposedly assumed the post of Salonga although he had no appointment to replace the former. The Palace had earlier named Edward Serapio, another Estrada buddy, as Salonga's replacement in the board, but Serapio did not accept the post. So technically, since there is no notice of termination of Salonga, he is still the holdover director."

War zone

An ex-top official of the Presidential Commission on Good Government blamed "irregularities in the PCGG's handling of company matters. That's why there are two Philcomsat boards."

"If you'll look at the history of Philcomsat, the PCGG backed the Estrada nominees all throughout in their cases against the Ilusorios and other holdover directors. But last year, the PCGG, by some maneuverings, shifted allegiance, supporting instead the shadow board formed by Sylvia Ilusorio. It dropped the government nominees like hot potatoes and recognized the other group," the same source said.

Poblador admitted, "there's a problem. Who will Philcomsat suppliers deal with? Not only the suppliers. The public is also confused. And who will lend the company money?"

At the Philcomsat headquarters on Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, "there are two sets of security guards: Arms, hired by the Africa board; and Nival, which is identified with the Nieto group," firm insiders noted.

Sometimes, "this place is like a war zone," they added.

Frontiers man

In 1998 and 1999, Philcomsat registered net profits of P82,799,778 and P148,408,175.

Last year, the firm's revenues totaled P297,118,530 while company costs and expenses amounted to P439,438,427, or operational losses of P142,319,897.

The firm, however, declared in an unaudited income statement a net income of P120,217,089 despite its operational losses.

Company investments and advances amounted to P1,933,784,007.

In a report to the Philcomsat board, the public accounting firm SGV & Co. said it "did not audit the financial statements of the company's three subsidiaries in 1999 and two subsidiaries in 1998."

"We were unable to obtain nor were we able to read the minutes of meetings of stockholders and board of directors held from Jan. 1, 1998 and Dec. 31, 1998. Had we obtained and read the minutes of the meetings, the financial statements present fairly in all material aspects the financial position of Philcomsat and the results of its operations and cash flows for the years in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles," SGV said.

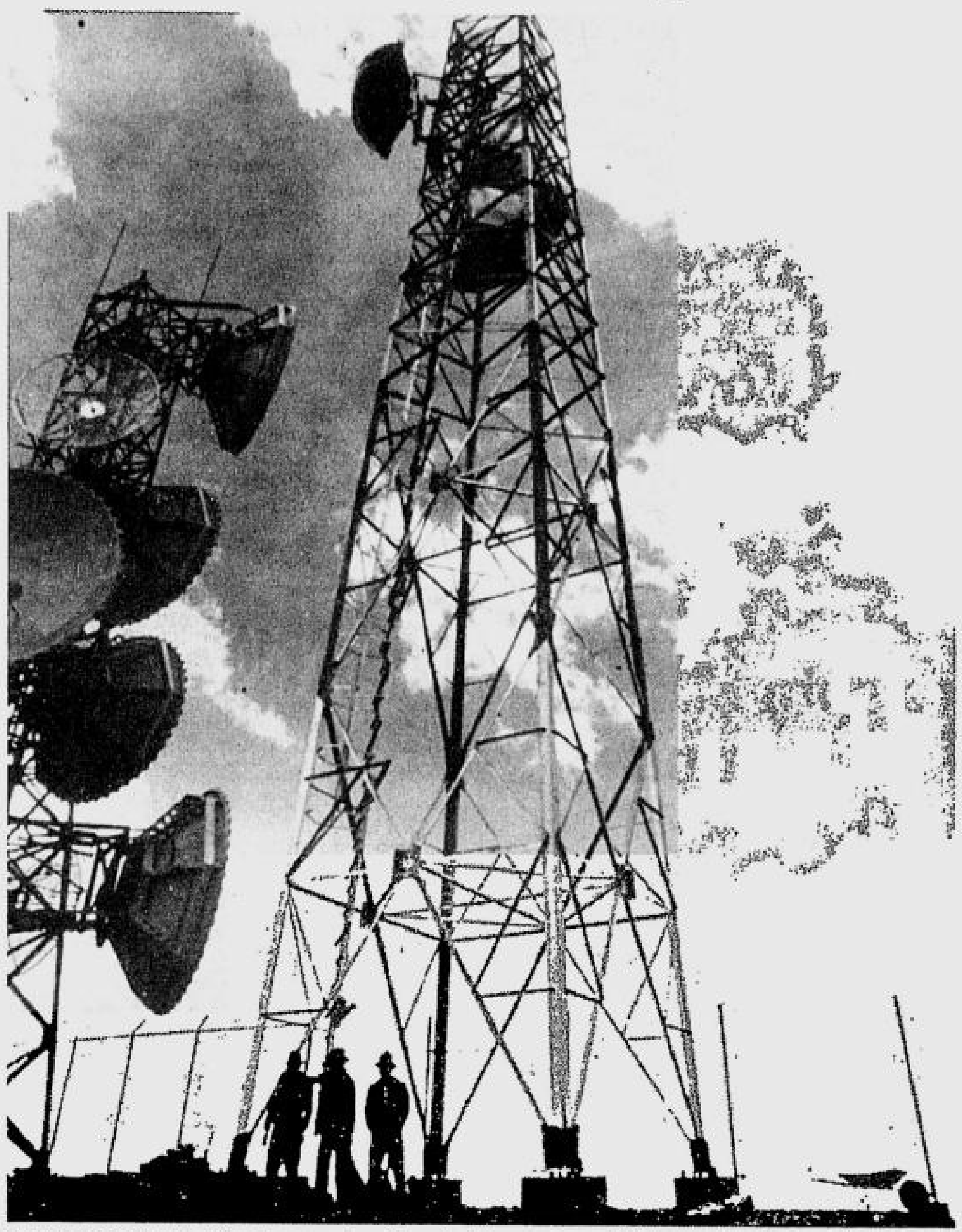
Philcomsat, according to Poblador, is "picking up and putting together the pieces and really charting a vision for the company, which is difficult during these times as it is with many other companies."

Two thousand, he said, was a "better year because we were winding down the effects of deregulation, which did not hit Philcomsat fully."

And 2001? "It's a different story altogether. There's no glimmer of hope in the satellite industry, especially now that more of the world is getting wired. The satellite business is limited to something like an exploration company or frontiers man."

"You go up there and develop the frontier and soon as you developed it, other people come in and take advantage of what you've built up," Poblador said. Satellite communications "plays a diminished role in the world today because of the amount of cable that has been laid. You've seen them go across oceans, the Pacific and the Atlantic."

Except for the cellular phone business, the prospects are "not too good for the whole telecommunications industry," he added.



WITH a long-running dispute over who will control the company, Philcomsat has been unable to catch up with the ever-quickening pace in the information-technology sector. Its facilities, like this communications tower, are already outdated.

Hottick seeks more realistic terms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HOTTICK Investment Ltd.-Renong Bhd. is seeking more realistic terms in the selection of a long-term leaseholder for National Steel Corp. to attract a broader interest in the planned reopening of the steel giant's Iligan factory.

Hottick chair Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Manaff said the NSC evaluation committee led by the Department of Trade and Industry should also invite Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. to the Oct. 23 auction to avoid potential lawsuits that could derail its plans.

Hottick-Renong previously bolted out of the committee to pursue its earlier deal with Allengoal to reopen the NSC's Iligan plant, which had been closed since November 1999. It was forced to go back to the committee and participate in the bidding following an order from Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency that took over Hottick-Renong's assets due to serious financial problems.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II, Manaff said the committee "should give weight to substance over form and minor technicalities and keep the terms and conditions realistic as possible to attract more qualified participants."

The committee has been criticized for demanding a cash and guarantee bond worth P1 billion from the potential bidders, which the NSC's labor union has criticized as unreasonable because it is grossly disproportionate to the scope of the proposed lease undertaking.

Growth in domestic borrowings fell in Aug.

By Clarissa S. Batino

GROWTH in domestic borrowings slipped to 4.1 percent in August from the previous month's 5.2 percent, reflecting a slowdown in the local economy.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that growth in the borrowings of the private sector fell to 0.2 percent in August from 3.4 percent in July, while government borrowings grew to 14.2 percent in August from 9.6 percent in July.

These statistics show that with its increasing financial requirements, the government has been crowding private companies out of the lending market. Most banks and similar financial institutions are lending more to the government than the private sector.

The government is set to borrow P173 billion this year. It plans to borrow over two-thirds of this requirement from domestic sources in view of the peso's weakness against the dollar.

A top bank official said while private companies were reluctant to borrow money because of the uncertain economic environment, the government's aggressive borrowing tack had been siphoning off whatever available money there was in the market.

"No matter what they say, the government is already crowding out the private sector," a top bank official said.

Encourage unions, Laguesma tells firms

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma has urged companies to encourage union organizing as a measure of goodwill to bridge clashing labor and management perspectives on wage increases expected next month.

Industrial peace in the country today will always be the product of "continuing negotiations" as the economic downturn affects both workers and employers in the next three months, Laguesma told delegates to the 38th National Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines here last week.

"The disciplining power of the market is swift and unforgiving. Business has no room to dilly-dally if there are strategic choices (to be made) . . . (One such choice is) greater flexibility in the workplace. Therefore, if business must initiate greater flexibility in workplace governance, there must be mutual respect (between labor and management)," he said.

Government statistics suggest an improvement in labor-management relationships because of a decline in labor strikes and lockouts since 1986.

The same figures suggested that 89.9 percent more Filipinos were employed under the Macapagal administration this year compared with last year's 88.8 percent.

But Laguesma said this apparent calm in the labor industry was deceptive because reduced strikes merely reflected the development of "more complicated issues."

He stressed that the wage debate had already been reinforced by a recent government survey where companies cited high wages as the reason for their shutdown.

"This is really the first time. The common reasons for a company's permanent closure had been a slump in the market, downsizing or major revenue losses. But in the last survey, 25 companies closed down because of the minimum wage hike. These may have been micro-enterprises, which were unable to cope with yearly wage increases," Laguesma explained.

The Department of Labor and Employment noted that companies in the country had not addressed the wage issue fairly well.

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Greenspan offers hope for economy

WASHINGTON—Famed for his calm in the eye of the storm, Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan this week will likely offer hope about the US economy's long-term prospects while speaking frankly on the post-Sept. 11 risks.

But amid worries about new public threats such as anthrax, Greenspan's usual knack for soothing the frayed nerves of investors and consumers in times of turmoil may not prove as effective as it has in the past.

The Fed chief is slated to testify on Wednesday before Congress' Joint Economic Committee on "Monetary Policy and the Economic Outlook."

"He'll probably sound optimistic about the longer term," said Bill Quan, economist at the bond firm Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. in New York.

Quan said Greenspan will signal willingness in the US central bank's policymaking committee to cut short-term interest rates beyond the percentage point reduction it has made since Sept. 11.

As of the Fed's last rate cut on Oct. 2, overnight rates now stand at 2.5 percent, close to the annual rate of inflation. Many economists think the Fed could chop rates down to 2 percent in coming months but may pause there.

However, Quan said: "The problem right now isn't lack of liquidity. It's a huge fear factor and the distraction to people of the war on terrorism."

If the fear factor strengthens, the economy could lose ground quickly as consumers shun shopping malls and hold back on making major purchases, such as homes and cars.

Will he use the R-word?

Most economists already believe the US economy is in a recession. The question is, will it prove a short, shallow one cushioned by generous interest-rate cuts and stimulative fiscal policy or a sharp, painful downturn exacerbated by an atmosphere of pessimism?

Aiming to avoid any further damage to confidence, analysts say Greenspan may steer clear of the actual word "recession."

However, depending on the bluntness of lawmakers' questions, the Fed chief could possibly acknowledge the risk of a contraction in gross domestic product for at least one quarter, economists said.

"He is certainly going to emphasize that the Fed stands ready to support the economy. I don't know if he'll use the R-word," said Kurt Karl, chief US economist at Swiss Re in New York. "But the economy looks more and more like it's in a recession."

Wednesday's testimony, set for 10 a.m. (1400 GMT), will be the second time since the attacks that Greenspan has publicly discussed the economy.

He touched on the fear factor in his Sept. 20 testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, weeks before a cluster of reports surfaced about letters laced with anthrax. It was also prior to fairly explicit warnings from law-enforcement officials about the risk of another potential attack.

"The shock of Sept. 11, by markedly raising the degree of uncertainty about the future, has the potential to result for a time in pronounced disengagement from future commitments,". Greenspan said on Sept. 20. However, he added: "I am confident that we will recover and prosper as we have in the past."

In that earlier testimony, Greenspan had virtually no data with which to gauge the economic damage from the tragedy. This time, he will have a handful of reports but most offer, at best, a snapshot of the economy in the immediate aftermath of the attacks and are still unclear on wider ranging effects.

Among the most telling pieces of information was the government's retail sales report released last week. Sales nosedived 2.4 percent in September as consumers stayed glued to television sets and avoided stores and restaurants. *Reuters*

Sept. attacks delay US manufacturing upturn

NEW YORK—A budding recovery in the US manufacturing sector may have been set back until at least next year by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, a leading manufacturing official said on Monday.

Norbert Ore, chairman of the National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM), told Reuters that falling demand after the attacks likely caused unsold goods to pile high on manufacturers' shelves.

The attacks paralyzed airlines disrupting delivery of goods and kept Americans glued to their television sets and out of the shopping malls.

"The attacks didn't seem to hurt September production, but they may have resulted in some inventory build . . . which may affect October, November and December production," said Ore.

The manufacturing sector, which makes up one-sixth of the economy, was showing signs before the attacks that it was pulling clear of its worst slump since the 1990-1991 recession.

Higher inventories of unsold goods in the nation's factories mean businesses can satisfy orders out of existing supply without needing to crank up production. The rate of liquidation of inventories was strong in recent months, according to past NAPM surveys.

"The one thing we had going for us in manufacturing was that inventories were in line going into the attacks," Ore told Reuters in an interview.

"We probably got some inventory build as a result of the attacks. It shouldn't be a huge amount of inventory that creates long-term problems. But we will continue to see some impact."

High levels of unsold goods have held back production this year, so progress in paring down unsold stock was seen as opening the way to a pickup in output later on.

The September NAPM inventory index registered 38.9, its 20th straight month under 50. Any reading below 50 indicates contraction of levels of unsold goods.

US businesses cut their inventories in August as sales edged up slightly, the commerce department said on Monday. The August drop in inventories was more mild than the 0.3 percent decline expected by US economists in a Reuters survey.

Ore said the attacks had radically altered the outlook for many firms and purchasing managers were in the front line.

"Purchasing managers will have to reassess supply strategies much more often. The focus used to be on optimizing the supply chain. Now it's going to switch to guaranteeing the security of the supply chain," he said.

"The most important thing is continuity of supply; then you look at quality and then price."

Ore said one of the most telling pieces of data in the September NAPM report on manufacturing was the steep drop in export orders.

"Last month's survey showed reaction (to the attacks) was mostly seen in the export data. People were canceling export orders or not placing orders to be exported," he said.

Looking forward Ore said: "A shift in October to fewer imports and fewer export orders would give us an indication that maybe they are looking more domestically to control their supply chain," he added.

NAPM's new export orders index fell 6 points in September to 45.9 from 51.9 in August. The index had been gaining gradually since mid-year.

In a sign of how tough the outlook is for manufacturers, Bethlehem Steel Corp., a titan of American industry whose steel helped make the United States a world power in the 20th century, sought bankruptcy protection from creditors on Monday after failing to overcome cheap imports, spiraling costs and a depressed economy. *Reuters*

Singapore firms freeze rather than fire–survey

SINGAPORE—Companies in Singapore have halted hiring, trimmed bonuses and frozen wages rather than fired staff as the city-state faces its worst recession in more than 30 years, consulting firm Watson Wyatt said on Tuesday.

Of firms laying off workers, retrenchment was most common in the electronics, high-technology and financial services sectors, its survey of 323 companies showed.

Watson Wyatt said 77 percent of the companies had adopted some sort of measures to deal with the downturn.

While 16.4 percent fired staff, a hiring halt was the most popular move at 56 percent, followed by cuts to variable bonuses at 27.5 percent, reduction in salary increments at 26.4 percent, and wage freezes at 22.3 percent.

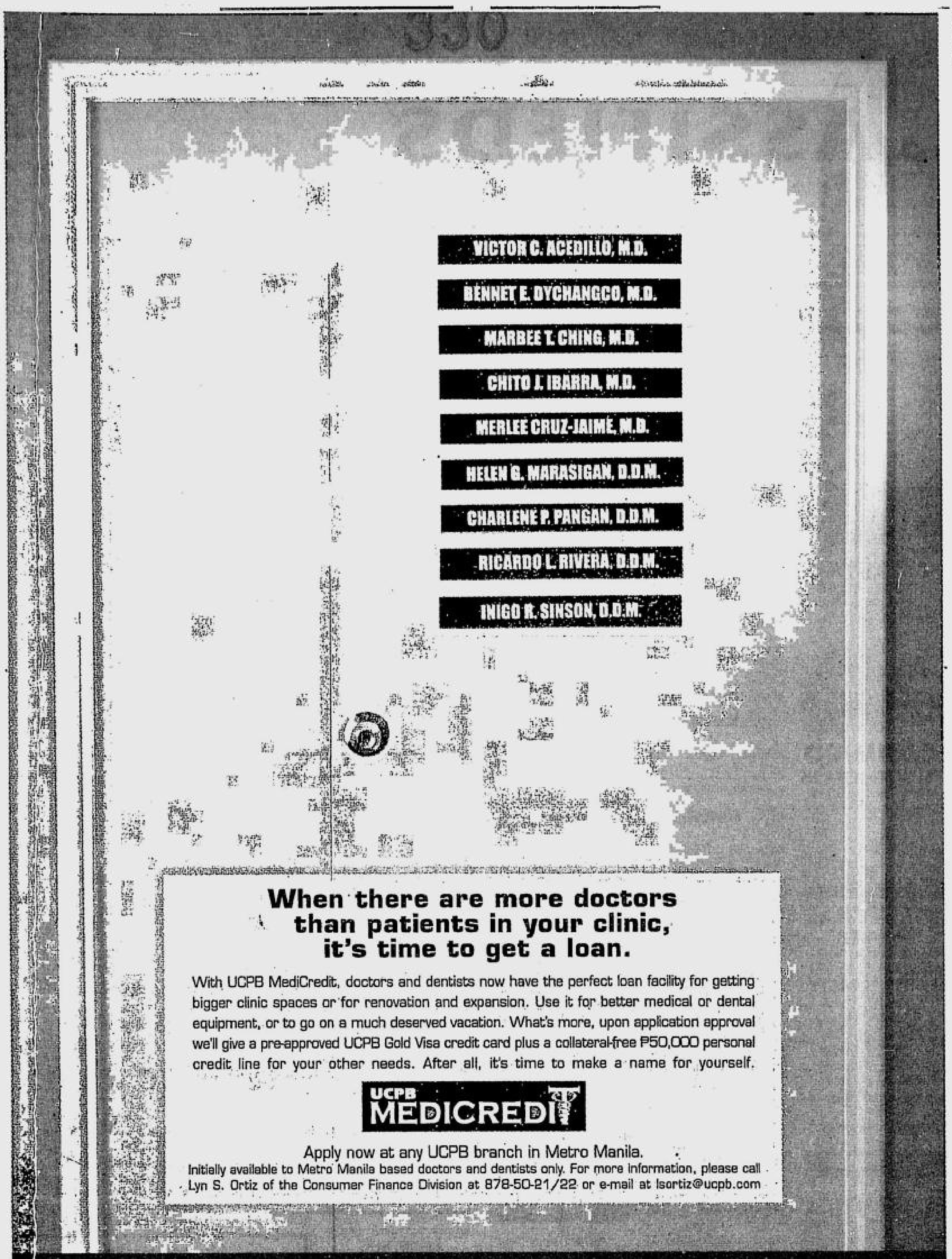
Watson Wyatt said a hiring freeze was the easiest option for a company to implement and had "much less of a negative effect on staff motivation as compared to a retrenchment exercise."

"Retrenchments are most commonly used by American companies, with 26 percent of them having adopted or are planning to adopt such a measure, as compared to 5 percent for Singaporean companies," it said in a statement.

"In most cases, it is typically a corporate directive from the US to carry out a headcount reduction."

Singapore's woes—brought on my dwindling demand for electronics products and the ill health of major trading partners—has been exacerbated by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, its second-largest market after neighboring Malaysia.

The government, which unveiled a $6.2-billion stimulus package on Friday, has forecast a 3-percent contraction in gross domestic product (GDP) for 2001 and expects negative numbers for the first half of 2002. *Reuters*



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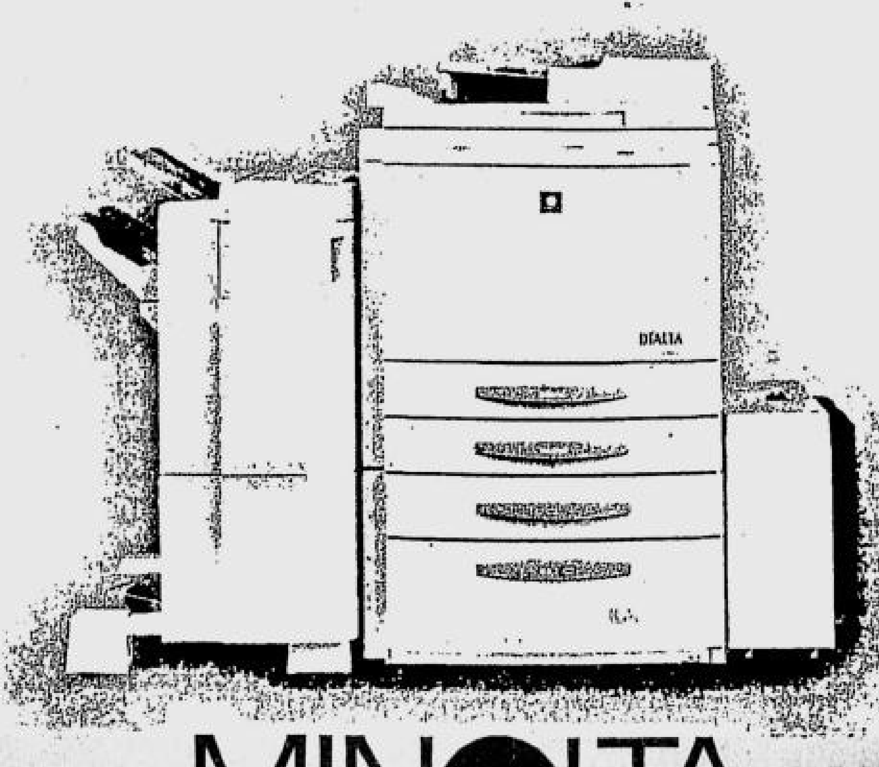

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Notice is given that the estate of the late **SANDRA P. NIETES** has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc#134; Page#28; Book#XLV; Series of 2001 under Atty. Perfecto L. Dimayuga, Notary Public, Makati City.
(PDI-Oct. 3,10 & 17, 2001)

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Notice is hereby given that Provisional Receipt Numbers 11601 to 11650 of Swift Foods, Inc. have been cancelled since October 16, 2001. Any transaction made with any of the above numbered receipts are void and will not be honored by the company.
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **Pepito F. Abrajano** was extrajudicially settled by the heirs per Doc. # 311, Page # 64, Book #V, Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Pasig City, Freddie M. Nojara. *(PDI - Oct. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)*

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. I, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Pinas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

EDGARDO S. PACHECO, Ph.D.

October 8, 1931 - October 9, 2001

of the University of the Philippines College of Engineering and Malabon

wish to convey our sincerest thanks to all the relatives, friends, colleagues and former students who expressed their condolences, offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, and who in countless ways comforted us during our time of grief.

His wife **Carmelita**; children **Willie** and **Fe**, **Nilda** and **Robert Nazareno**, and **Miriam** and **Mark Annett**; sister **Amelia P. Hilario**; grandchildren **Alex**, **Alf**, **Anton**, **Gus**, **Rafael** and **Meaghan**.

"We love you in life much more in death, you will remain in our hearts forever."

"A gentle soul who has given us her love generously and her smile warmly... we love you Mama and we will miss you very much."

Lydia Capunitan Diosomito

of Naic, Cavite

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 12, 2001 at the age of 75.

Her loving husband **Manuel**, her children **Manuelito (Boyeth)** and **Tes**, **Leilani** and **Fedy**, **Nelson** and **Tes**, grandchildren, sister **Rosie**, brother **Eulogio, Jr.**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Zamora St., Naic, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at Naic Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Naic Catholic Church.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ERNESTO "BOY" VERGARA

Wish to thank all of you who, by way of your presence, prayers, thoughts and flowers, offered us solace and comfort. We also thank you for joining us in remembering him, who in so many ways, have touched our lives forever.

God Bless You!

Our Dearly Beloved

ESPERANZA SUACO FERNANDEZ

of Cagayan de Oro and Manila
Widow of the late **Nestor C. Fernandez**, after receiving the Last Sacrament

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 15, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her children **Tony** and **Paquit**, **Eddie** (†) and **Lulay**, **Jun** and **Ched**, **Bobby** and **Gladys**, **Manolo** and **Susan**, **Totie** and **Arlene**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Green Hills Memorial Park Chapel, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City. Interment will be on Thursday, October 18, 2001 after the 8 o'clock a.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

LUISA (LOI) de GUZMAN FAJARDO

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 16, 2001 at the age of 73.

Her loving husband **Zosimo C. Fajardo** (†), children **Nes & Yeyet**, **Ling & Ditas**; **Epoy & Leni**, **Menchu**, **Mario & Carol**, **Mike**, **Marlon & Cathy**; **Van & Tes**, her grandchildren, brothers and sister, other relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, October 19, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City, Metro Manila after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

NORMA TOBIAS YOUNG

of Sta. Cruz, Laguna
and Murphy, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 15, 2001 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband **MAX**; children **WALLY & DANG**, **WILLIAM & TERRY**, **WINSTON & RALLY**, **WILSON & LEN**, **WILBERT & AMY**, **WILMA & RONNIE**, **WANDRA & DAVE**, **WARREN & JUDITH**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, No. 10 Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at the Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

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DR. PAULINO G. ARCANGEL

Born: April 29, 1913
Died: October 15, 2001

Wife : **Sebastiana Teaño-Arcangel**

Children :

Cory and **Jose Llorens**
Paul and **Teresita Escarilla**
Viber and **Evelyn Briones**
Victoria Arcangel (deceased)
Anabelle and **Manuel Escueta**
Agnes and **Nestor Jariño**

Grandchildren :

Steven, Shirley and **Roland, Ma. Theresa, Charissa, Michelle, Bernard Paul, Arabelle** (deceased), **Michael Paul, Hazel Joy, Beverly Anne, Michael Val** and **Mary Ann, Paolo Noel, Faye Ann Marie** and **Elou, Mark Stephen.**

Great Grandchildren :

Gavin, Alaina, Martin James, Andrea Victoria, Ramuel

Body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Extension, Davao City.

Interment will be announced later.

DOMINGO (DOMINIC) MAGSARILI, JR.

December 5, 1929 - October 15, 2001
71 years old

His beloved wife **LIWAYWAY**, children **EVELYN**, **ELIZABETH**, **ELLEN**, **ARTEMIO** and **EDITHA** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe. Cremation will be on October 18, 2001.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

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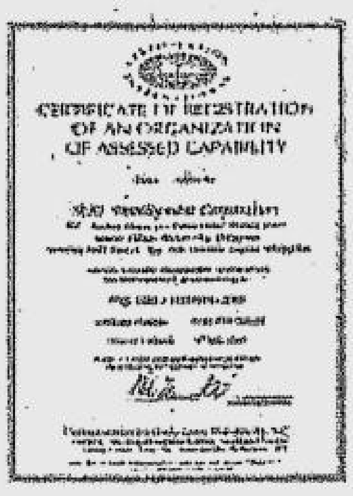
RBF Development Corporation is ISO 9001: 2000 Certified



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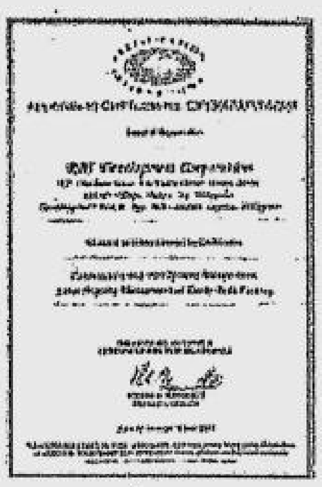


July 16, 2001 was a proud milestone for RBF Development Corporation (RBFC) on being awarded the ISO 9001: 2000 by Certification International Philippines, Inc.

RBFC, an affiliate of Singapore-based Ascendas, is the specialist developer and manager of ready-built and build-to-suit facilities in Carmelray Industrial Park II which today has a community of over 3,000 people working for 36 locators in the park.

Committed to delivering high quality value, RBFC decided to embark on the process of ISO certification in September 2000. According to the Head of RBFC Property Management and Quality Management Representative (QMR), Mr. Orlando Yu,"We treat our customers like members of the family. Hence, they have peace of mind when they operate in our facilities. They know that we take care of their needs."

About RBFC

RBF Development Corporation is a joint-venture between Ascendas (Philippines) Corporation and Masagana Holdings Corporation.

Ascendas (Philippines) Corporation is the country's foremost provider of total business space solutions. It is renowned for its successful flagship project, Carmelray Industrial Park II (CIP II) in Calamba, Laguna.

The 145-hectare park is designated a special economic zone by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), which ranks CIP II as the top private economic zone in the country. The park is equipped with its own dedicated 21 MW power plant and telecommunications facilities with under-ground fiber-optic reticulations.

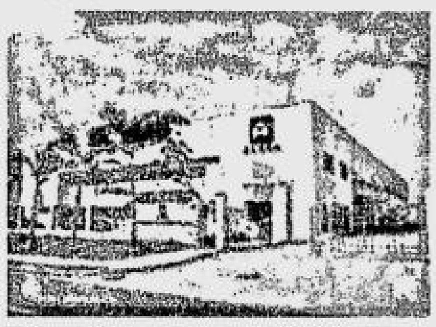
Masagana Holdings Corporation is a Filipino-owned investment holding company.

Mr. Jefferson Yao, President of RBFC receiving the ISO 9001: 2000 Certificate from Mr. Renato Navarete, Managing Director of Certification International Philippines, Inc. during the Official Launch of Ascendas (Philippines) Corporation last September 18, 2001.

Tungaloy Seimitsu Philippines., Inc. and Micro-Mechanics Technology Int'l., Inc. occupying RBF-CP3

Volex Cable Assemblies (Phils.), Inc. occupying RBF-CP1

RBFC Team: Standing (L-R):John Lo; Christopher Razo; Joey Roca; Orlando Yu; Vidal Agustin; Rommel Santos; Rizaldy Bangkil; Sitting (L-R): Reynaldo Macapagal; Heide Gabito; Julie Gutierrez; Jefferson Yao; Josephine Cobero; Katherine Alcantara and Algerico Lanticse.

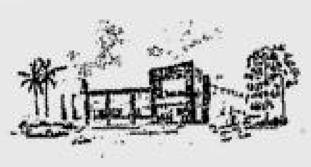


Alcoa Closure Systems Int'l Phils., Inc. occupying RBF-CP2

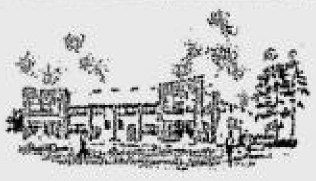
Franke Contract Group Phils., Inc. occupying a modified RBF-CP2

To gain ISO 9001: 2000 certification, RBFC had to establish and formalize management, implementation and corrective processes, systems and standards. The 10-month project involved all departments including project management, customer service and property management.

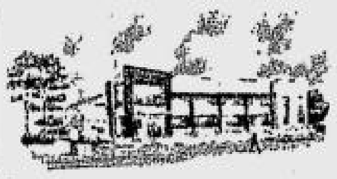
Three-Five Systems Pacific, Inc. is the first Build-To-Suit Project



CP1-1 = 2,267 sq m



CP3-1 = 1,265 sq m



CP2-1 = 4,150 sq ır

New RBF designs with improved features to enhance customers' corporate image

Message from the RBFC President

We are proud to announce that RBF Development Corporation (RBFC) is ISO 9001: 2001 certified as of July 16, 2001.

At RBFC, we set ourselves high targets to deliver to our customers a delightful experience. Being the first PEZA-registered company to receive the ISO award affirms our efforts and achievements in service excellence.

In 1999, RBFC pioneered the concept of ready-built facilities (RBFs) in the Philippines, specifically in Carmelray Industrial Park II (CIP II) located in Laguna. These RBFs have proven highly successful in meeting the needs of our customers for quick and hassle-free start-up in the Philippines. An added advantage is the relatively inexpensive start-up cost, as customers can choose to lease the RBFs instead of building their own facilities.

Today, 80% of all the locators in CIP II are operating from our ready-built and custom-built facilities.

We look forward to your strong support as we continually improve and enhance our offerings and services to you.

Mabuhay!

Jefferson Yao

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Turn a time bandit into a hero

RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

TO CONTINUE last week's column on time bandits, here are some more tips on managing your boss and turning him from a time bandit to a time hero.

- Respect your boss. Never talk about the faults of your boss to other people. Don't make your boss the butt of your jokes. Don't reveal confidences that the boss has entrusted in you. Don't overplay your own status and power. The walls have ears and your words may get around until these reach your boss' ears. *Patay kang bata ka!*. People are also wary of people talking ill of their bosses. You don't bite the hand that feeds you. Feedbacking is different from backbiting. Backbiting is irreparable and destructive.

- Protect your boss' time as much as you want him to protect yours. Don't commit his time to others unless he specifically tells you to take care of his appointments. Screen his callers. Listen to his instructions very carefully. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification until the two of you are very clear about the requirements of the task. Don't bother him with details—that's your job—but keep him informed.

- Most important of all, do your job. Concentrate on results, not on being busy (frenzy of activities). A considerate boss would give you bigger, more fulfilling tasks when he sees that you can deliver what is expected of you on time at the least cost. Do your homework. Study your company's business, customers, processes, products and services. Use the language of business and of your boss. Turn in complete and accurate results.

- Volunteer to do additional tasks that interest you or that will highlight your little known competencies. Don't wait to be asked or told. *Unahan mo na.* You will be establishing yourself as a self-starter, a team worker and a person with high potential and ready for promotion. These extras, especially if initiated by you and done with a lot of creativity, are what makes the difference between an average and an outstanding performance. Give your boss your unsolicited support and back up and he will never again ask you to do those little irritating tasks. Help your boss create a positive impression for himself.

Characteristics of bosses

Bosses are people. *Tao ring may damdamin.* They can make mistakes. They are considerate and mindful of you. They want you to succeed because their own performance is measured by the collective performance of your whole team. They work through you. They appreciate work well done and help you develop your talents and capabilities. They give you credit for your achievements. They accept your shortcomings and offer constructive criticism and corrective actions. They take the blame for your mistakes. They give you opportunities to explore new areas or tackle different kinds of jobs. They are your best allies at work. It is worth investing your time on them.

Yes, there are negative, lazy, credit-grabbing, demanding, never-do-wrong bosses. There is little you can do about this but to look for another boss.

If you are to buy books, please get a copy of "Health, Wealth and Wisdom in the New Millennium" and "How to Be Rich & Happy On Your Own Income" by Hans Jakobi and Stephen Skelton. The proceeds from the sale of this book will go the to various projects of the Foundation for the Rotary Soup Kitchen, Food Bank and Training Center, Inc., located at 121-41 Rotary Drive, NJC Housing, Project Barangay, Commonwealth Avenue, QC. This is a project of the Rotary Club of Quezon City North under the stewardship of CP Judge Lorenzo B. Veneracion. Their traditional fund sources from the USA and Japan are unable to help them now. The many poor families under their care could use our help.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

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Japan gov't, bank battle over policy

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan should set an inflation target to help end a deflationary cycle, Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tuesday, but central bank governor Masaru Hayami immediately rejected the radical idea.

Shiokawa said he would ask the Bank of Japan to set a target for price indices, based on levels seen in 1997, but Hayami told AFP's wholly owned subsidiary AFX Asia in parliament: "There is no possibility that will happen."

The central bank has no specific price target at present, although it has said it will provide enough liquidity to prevent a continuous decline in prices.

Mounting stockpiles and a flood of cheap imports have triggered a deflationary cycle in Japan, crippling company profits, but Hayami argued monetary policy is not the answer to reverse the trend.

"It is a misunderstanding if some people think that the BoJ is not making efforts to prevent falling prices," Hayami told a fiscal and financial committee at the lower house of parliament.

"Even though the BoJ provides capital to the financial markets, it is not feeding through to financial institutions. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to stop the current trend of falling prices only by monetary policy easing," he said.

On Friday the BoJ voted to keep its loose grip on monetary policy, pledging to keep liquidity levels high—above six trillion yen ($50 billion)—and interest rates effectively at zero as it monitors progress in a government reform pledge aimed at kick-starting the economy.

But Hayami added Tuesday, further quantitative easing by the central bank would be ineffective due to a mountain of bad loans held by Japanese banks cited as a root cause of Japan's comatose state.

"As long as bad debt-issues remain unresolved, monetary easing by the Bank of Japan will not have a full positive impact," Hayami said.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has pledged to reduce the level of bad loans held at major Japanese banks to safe levels within three years, but economists warn this is an impossible task as the failing economy causes an increasing number of bank loans to turn sour. *AFP*

New risks force int'l insurers to renegotiate, cancel contracts

PARIS—International insurers, confronted with new and different kinds of risks, are resorting more and more to the last shot in their locker—canceling and renegotiating contracts.

"We're going from a situation where we insured for everything, with only a few exceptions, to a situation where everything is excluded, apart from just a few things that are covered," said Jean-Marie Nessi, chief executive of Axa Corporate Solutions.

Even before the World Trade Center catastrophe, insurers had already been confronted with a string of natural disasters stretching their resources.

The upshot of the WTC and Pentagon attacks is that insurers have been sending staff around to clients such as companies and airlines considered to be high risk, in order to renegotiate premiums and guarantee ceilings.

The new development has been given an urgency by the fact that many contracts have to be renewed in December, and three months' notice is required.

The world's airlines received a letter from their insurers on Sept. 17 imposing an extra premium charge of $1.25 (1.37 euros) for each passenger, and a reduction in the total value covered to a maximum of $50 million (55 million euros) per aircraft and per accident, compared to previous ceilings of between $1.5 billion and $2 billion.

Next in line is the world of sport. Last Friday the insurance company Axa Colonia ended its contract covering the 2002 world soccer world cup, in order to renegotiate guarantees.

The new arrangements will not affect the French Open tennis championship next year or the skiing world cup this winter.

Private companies, already subject to increased premiums since last year, will also feel the full effects of Sept. 11 and the new unknown risks perceived by insurers.

Premiums will go up by at least 15 to 20 percent, according to one insurance agent.

Axa CS, a branch of the insurance group Axa, is planning premium increases between 39 and 80 percent in industrial risks for the year 2002.

Insurance companies have so far not adjusted to new risk factors such as terrorist attacks, cyber-risks and genetically modified crops. *AFP*

China's GDP growth slows in third quarter

BEIJING—China's economy grew 7.6 percent in the first nine months of 2001 against the same period last year, a lower figure than recorded for earlier in the year, official figures showed Tuesday.

The 7.6-percent growth rate for the first three quarters of the year, revealed by the National Bureau of Statistics at a press conference, represents a steady decline in economic growth.

In the first half, China's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 7.9 percent.

However third quarter GDP growth was just 7.0 percent, a significant decline from the 7.8-percent growth in the second quarter and 8.1 percent recorded in the first quarter.

A slowdown in export growth and industrial output growth, due mainly to the global economic downturn, were key reasons for the decline, officials said.

Exports rose 7.0 percent in the first three quarters, compared to 11.3 percent growth in the first half. The trade surplus amounted to $13.6 billion, a decrease of $5.6 billion over the same period last year.

In addition, the consumer price index fell by 0.1 percent in September.

But government officials maintained a positive outlook Tuesday, saying the government had put great emphasis on boosting domestic demand and would continue with active fiscal policies to keep demand high.

"The negative impact brought by the slowdown in the world economy has been offset. The overall economic performance is stable and the quality of economic performance is very good," said Li Xiaochao, a bureau spokesperson.

Consumer spending had been increasing and investment rising, he said.

Li added the government was confident China could achieve its targeted economic growth rate of 7.0 percent for the entire year. *AFP*

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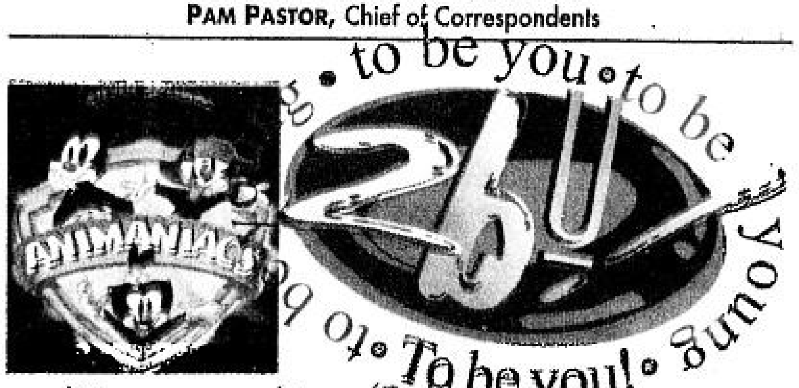
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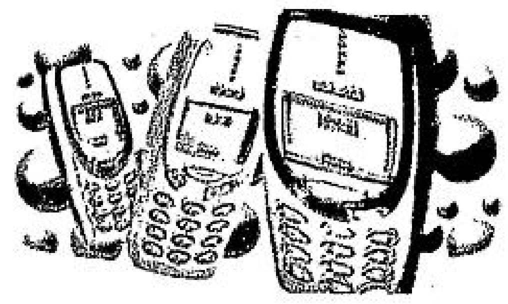
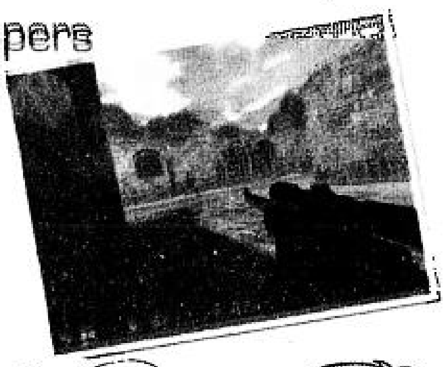
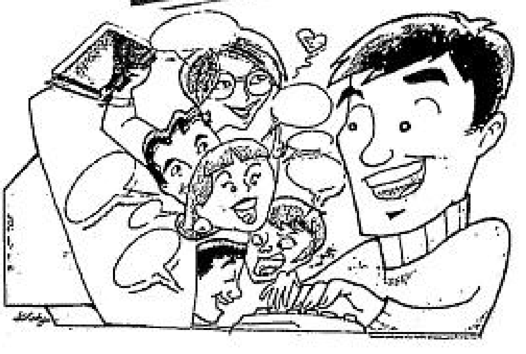


From compulsive texters to obsessive Counter-Strikers, from giddy message board posters to shop-aholics, 2bU! takes you on a trip of the world of harmless and not-so harmless addictions. Let's go, trippers





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The addiction Scrapbook

Caffeine addict

COFFEE. If coffee were crack, I'd be dead by now. For four years, I've been drinking like some maniac on Wall Street. I was 14 when I finished my first big cup by my sister Coffy, an addict as well. I have never stopped drinking then. I don't have any particular favorite flavor but I always order lots of sugar or syrup even though I have espresso. Before I go to school, I always pass by Jollibee or Starbucks for my first dose of the day. Sometimes I bring *baon* in big tumblers. This explains why I'm always late for class, I'm usually awake the whole night and I still try to get a cup in the morning even though I only have a minute to get to the classroom. I was once photographed drinking, looking like a junkie. All I needed was a cigarette and I would have looked like a rockstar on a Monday morning. As a result I have eye bags and I tend to get nervous easily.

Tumblers. When Starbucks still ruled the coffee scene (it still does, I guess) I went there almost every day after school. An attendant suggested me one time to purchase one of their tumblers so that I can re-use them and save 5 bucks per order. I used the ones my mom bought in Seattle but I bought more because of the different designs. Soon, I started collecting tumblers and my relatives in the US started giving me tumblers as *pasalubong* since they're cheaper than CDs and fast-food.

Buying books and not reading them. People see my desk at home piled with lots of books and they instantly think I'm an intellectual freak. Hmm, maybe I'm a pseudo bohemian loser! I bought about 30 books this year and I only read a fraction of it. I avoid going to bookstores since I get so attracted with the cover, the smell (new ones, ahhh) and the little interesting infos at the back. I have the time to read, but I always sleep in the middle of most of the books no matter how interesting they are. Talk about A.D.D! In the end I'm a librarian instead of a bookworm since my friends borrow the books.

DVD. 2bU's resident film critic and fellow DVD addict Alexis Tioseco recommended me this guy who supplies DVDs, really good, authentic but expensive ones. I gave him a call one day and ordered "Requiem for a Dream" first since it was expensive and I can't find a copy compatible with my player. From then on my weekly allowance was divided into food, coffee and DVDs. I just cut on movies, CDs and clothes. Now I'm in "rehab." I sort of kicked the habit since there was a time I practically turned the house upside down for money to buy school supplies.

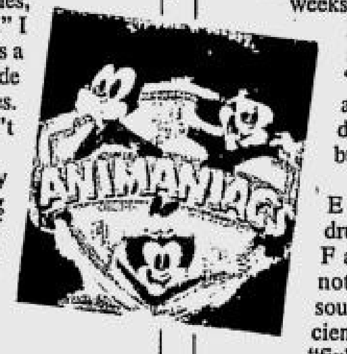
Picking my hair. Wait! This isn't an addiction, this is an illness!

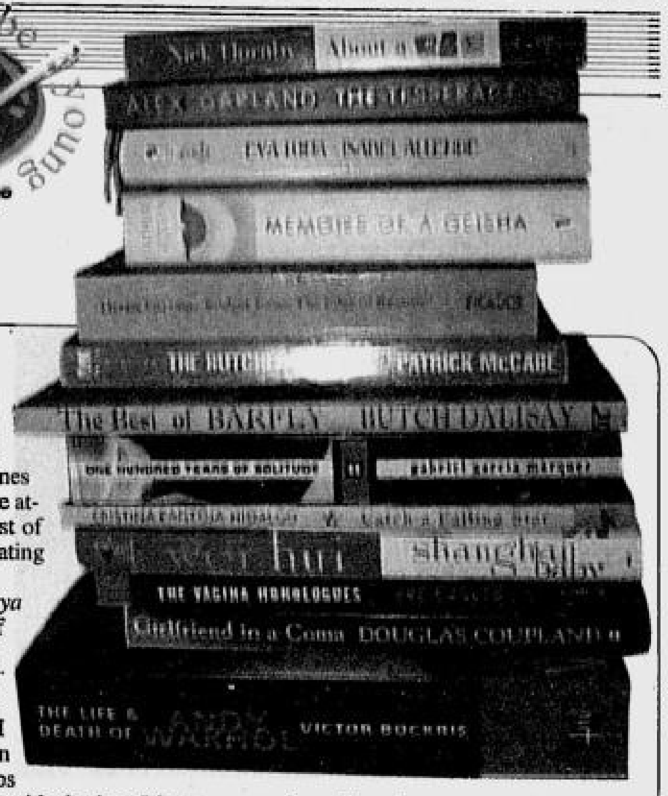
Photography. I can relate to my dad now when it comes to taking pictures. I spend about four rolls of film a month and hundreds of MB in digital photography. I love taking pictures of my fellow correspondents and my classmates, especially when they're sleeping.

Burning CDs. Ever since the CD-writer at home was plugged in, I have never stopped burning CDs. I was always anti-piracy, but I can't help it when I see a new version of one of my favorite songs on audiogalaxy.com, Since my happiness is making CDs and I'm anti-piracy, I just give mostly away to my friends. My so-called company is "Tammy's *sabog* hits" and so far I have about 100 volumes.

Internet. I spend about 10-20 hours a week and surf till my eyes get sore. I have about 20 e-mails and I check them three times a day each. I'm a certified Nethead.

Tammy David

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Bag lady

I AM an addict.

I am naturally drawn to certain things, like a bee to honey. My hair stands on end and I get chills down my spine every time my eyes chance upon the object of my addiction. My days and nights are filled with thoughts of acquiring my desire. My everyday life revolves around it—I even dream about it. It brings such happiness to my life that even days and weeks after acquisition, I am still happiness personified. Going after and pining for a great "find" is such an indescribable thrill. And when funds do not allow me to acquire (re: buy) it, I become despondent.

No I am not talking about E or K or some other designer drug—I much rather prefer G, F and LV. No, no, no—I am not some twisted alphabet soup addict nor do I have deficiency in spelling words. My "fix" sometimes costs more than the going rate of popular drugs, thus spelling disaster for my wallet. And I have been like this, even before being addicted to these things became the "in" thing.

I am talking about bags, my dear, bags.

Hi! I'm Jules, 2bU's resident bag addict.

One Monday night, PDI office, ages ago:

Jules: Hey, Jason, I'm so depressed.

Jason: (Really concerned) Why? What's wrong?

Jules: (Sighs and looks sincerely forlorn) I haven't had a new bag in along time.

Jason: Diyos *ko! Ano ka ba?*

FYI, this conversation really happened. For confirmation, please e-mail jason_2bu@yahoo.com.

Ask Pam. Every time she hies off to some exotic country or province, she never has a hard time thinking of what *pasalubong* to bring for me. All she has to do is find a bag for me and voila, I am there to welcome her with open arms.

Ask my best friend Crissy, who is based in the US. Every other e-mail I send her comes with an attachment. The attached file is a wish list of the latest bags I am fixating on. Go figure.

Ask our beloved *yaya* who has gotten tired of saying, *"Ate, ang dami mo ng bag!"* and "Bag *na naman, ate?"* and other similar remarks. I know it's no longer fun for her to look for tops and pants that will go with the bag I have chosen to use for the day. I saw her once roll her eyeballs when I once said out loud, while fixing my closet, *"Ang dami ko palang* bags!"

Ask my boyfriend Erwin. In order to pacify me, he doesn't remind me to breathe and relax or to summon a happy thought. He knows that all he has to do is bring me to the mall and lead me to the bag department. One time, we were stuck in traffic in Makati Avenue—we were not moving at all and I was getting an attack of claustrophobia.I was way beyond fuming—I wanted to step out of the car. Then my ever-creative boyfriend said, "Hey hon, Ishq is just in the next street. Why don't you drop by?" Oh goody, I'm just going to look, I told him. Of course, by the time the car reached the street where my favorite bag store is located in, I had already purchased a bag.

When we were in the US last year, it pissed him off no end that I couldn't seem to stop myself from buying bags. I would forego eating or buying my favorite brand of ice cream that was only available in the US so that I could buy another bag. During the last stretch of our trip, I was even begging him to drive a hundred miles so that I could buy this coffee-colored snakeskin bag. And up to this very day, I still nag him for not allowing me to buy this Kate Spade bag. More so now that my birthday is coming up. I have told him twice that I don't want a surprise—I just want my little Kate or little Lulu G.

Ask my brothers. They are always a step away from disowning me every time we are in the mall (or church or movie house or any other public place) and I go up to a total stranger and ask, "Excuse me, you don't know me, but I just have to ask: Where did you get your bag?"

Ask my 4-year-old son, who at an early age, knows that you shouldn't put "Mom's bag" on the floor or much less, touch them.

Ask my mom. It has come to a point that she has stopped lecturing me for fear that she might develop hypertension due to nagging. Of course, she did say once that she will burn all my bags without prior announcement if I cannot come up with a system of keeping them fixed at all times, as opposed to leaving them scattered all over the house as I dress up.

Ask my Tita Nanette, the one whom everyone says is my lookalike. Every conversation we have always ends with me asking her to bequeath all her bags to me in the future. I mean, who wouldn't, right? Her collection would rival those of Imelda's or some other inveterate mad bag shopper. The only difference between her and Imelda is the latter goes around using her bags. My Tita buys them and then keeps them. Period.

Actually, blame my aunt—she's the one who got me started on this.

I don't want to waste my time trying to justify my addiction to bags. It's probably genetic. And besides, I need to finish this article asap. The mall is about to close in 30 minutes.

Jules Alcantara

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HINT: Check out the *Business Section* on Thursday, October 18 for My Wish Box.

The correspondents reveal their guiltiest pleasures

Shoe fetish

I DON'T drink. I don't smoke. No cigarette has ever touched my lips and the mere thought of holding one revolts me. I've never tried drugs and have no intentions of doing so. I don't even drink coffee. Now before you write me off as just another self-righteous-too-holy-for-worldly-things prude, allow me to slap you with reality. I do get a high from other things.

Shoes. My love for shoes is probably the reason Jason tagged me as "the shopping monster." My friends literally have to drag me away from shoe stores when the shopping bug bites me. As of last count, I have around 60 pairs of shoes in the house. That may not be too much based on your typical rich brat's standards, but when most of your hard-earned money goes straight down the accounts of shoe manufacturers, that is a lot. I once heard someone on TV give one piece of advice to shopaholics—"When you walk into a store and you don't see anything you like in 10 minutes, leave. Otherwise, you might try to convince yourself into liking something you really don't want." I follow this advice faithfully. The problem does not lie here. It usually takes me less than 10 seconds to know what I want. I can look at a whole rack of shoes and know which pair I want in an instant. It's like an instant connection—an attraction. My long-running love affair with shoes. Now if only finding decent men was as easy as finding a nice pair of beaded strap sandals.

Pedicures. When I was a kid, I hated the sight of toes with nail polish. Now that I fancy myself to be a grown-up, I couldn't last a week without getting a pedicure. I know, I know. My tootsies are way too pampered.

'Friends.' What began as a fixation on Matt LeBlanc and his male bimbo character Joey turned into a crazy obsession. "Friends" soon started playing 24/7 on our TV at home. My video rental records list nothing but reruns of the hit series. When I was out, we talked about it. (It didn't help that almost everyone around me is "Friends"-crazy, too.) I've watched every single episode of "Friends" so many times that I have even listed the mistakes and inconsistencies in the plot. And because of the influence of Anne Jambora, one of 2bU!'s beloved proofreaders, two of my paychecks went straight to Astrovision's cash register in my desire to have a complete collection of "Friends" VCDs like she has. (I've got more than 10 CDs to go. Ugh.) If my plans of having three sons and one daughter should come true, I will name them Ross, Chandler, Joey and Phoebe. If that's not sick, I don't know what is.

Percussion freaks. If you are going to Glorietta with me, you should endure watching me pound away in Time Zone. I just love Percussion freaks. It makes up for all the time I haven't had the chance to play the real drums.

Food. Getting me started on food is a mistake—a major one—especially if you are not in the mood to hear me ramble on and on and on and on… you get the drift. I am 100 percent passionate about food. While fitness freaks might gasp with disgust, I am proud to say that I have never dieted in my life. Eating for me is more than just something people to do to stay alive. It is a sensual, pleasure-filled experience that I savor every single time. Cookie Dough Ice Cream, Pizza Margherita, Samurai's Takoyaki Balls, Windows' Sisig, Quickly's Taro Ice, Reese's Bites, macadamia nuts. Okay, to cut things short, this a quote from Jason, "*Lahat naman gusto mo eh.*"

Friday's. You may argue that this bit should also fall under "food" but believe me, Friday's should have its own category. Your favorite correspondents and I do not feel complete unless we eat at Friday's at least once a week. We have a semi-regular booth in the Glorietta branch and the waiters there are probably sick of our faces. To illustrate just how sacred Friday's is for us, let me tell you about the one time I was trying to convince Jason to give Cibo a shot because I was salivating over the thought of creamy spinach on crisp bread. "*Gusto ko sana mag*-Friday's *eh,*" he said. "Friday's *na naman?!* Eww!" I said in jest. I heard a loud gasp on the other end of the phone. Then shrieking. Jason was hysterical. "My god, take that back, take that back! That's blasphemy!"

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

Earrings. Happy and Jason got me started on this addiction. Now I have to change earrings every day. Otherwise, I go nuts. I've purchased more than 30 pairs in around eight months. No explanations necessary.

Purple. I love anything purple. I have skirts, shoes, accessories, notebooks, stuffed animals, diskettes, pens, etc., etc., etc. Now when friends see anything purple, they say, "That's very Pam Pastor." Ohkaaay.

Books. Book-shopping is a slice of heaven for me. I remember when I was a kid, after shopping for books, I would be so excited that I couldn't decide which one to read first. I would go through the very systematic process of covering my eyes and pulling out one book from the pile.

Paper. New notebooks, a fresh pack of index cards, pad paper—all these excite me, as weird as that sounds. I get comfort from the two or three notebooks that I constantly lug around—the security blanket of my adult life.

Chat, Internet, e-mail. I get all worked up when a day passes and I don't check my e-mail. I can chat till 8 a.m. I lurk around Pinoyexchange.com a lot. Yes, I have mousepad burns on my wrist. I'm a Net junkie. So sue me.

'Blogging.' Since Web design genius Drew Europeo introduced me to Blogger.com, I haven't been able to stop "blogging." I get a strange sense of comfort from knowing that even if my PC crashes, my journal, poetry and fiction are all safe (to some extent) in cyberspace.

Text. This will probably make me sound like a total airhead but I'll take the risk. I cannot live without my cell phone. When I run out of credit, I don't stop twiddling my thumbs until I have reloaded. Leaving the house without my phone would be like leaving the house naked.

Talking, intellectual conversation. Yes, I am a sucker for communication. I do not have patience for nonsense, though. I like stimulating conversation. I like debating. I like it when people argue with me. I live for witty exchanges. I love hanging out with people who can blabber on and on. If I were to choose a lifetime partner (which isn't actually a priority now), I'd choose wit over looks any day. After all, when we're old and wrinkled, there would be nothing left but talk. But hey, I'm getting way ahead of myself.

Singing. Never make me act. Even two-minute skits in class make me squirm. But singing does not have that effect on me. I have no qualms about wailing my head off onstage or off. Blame it on my stage mother.

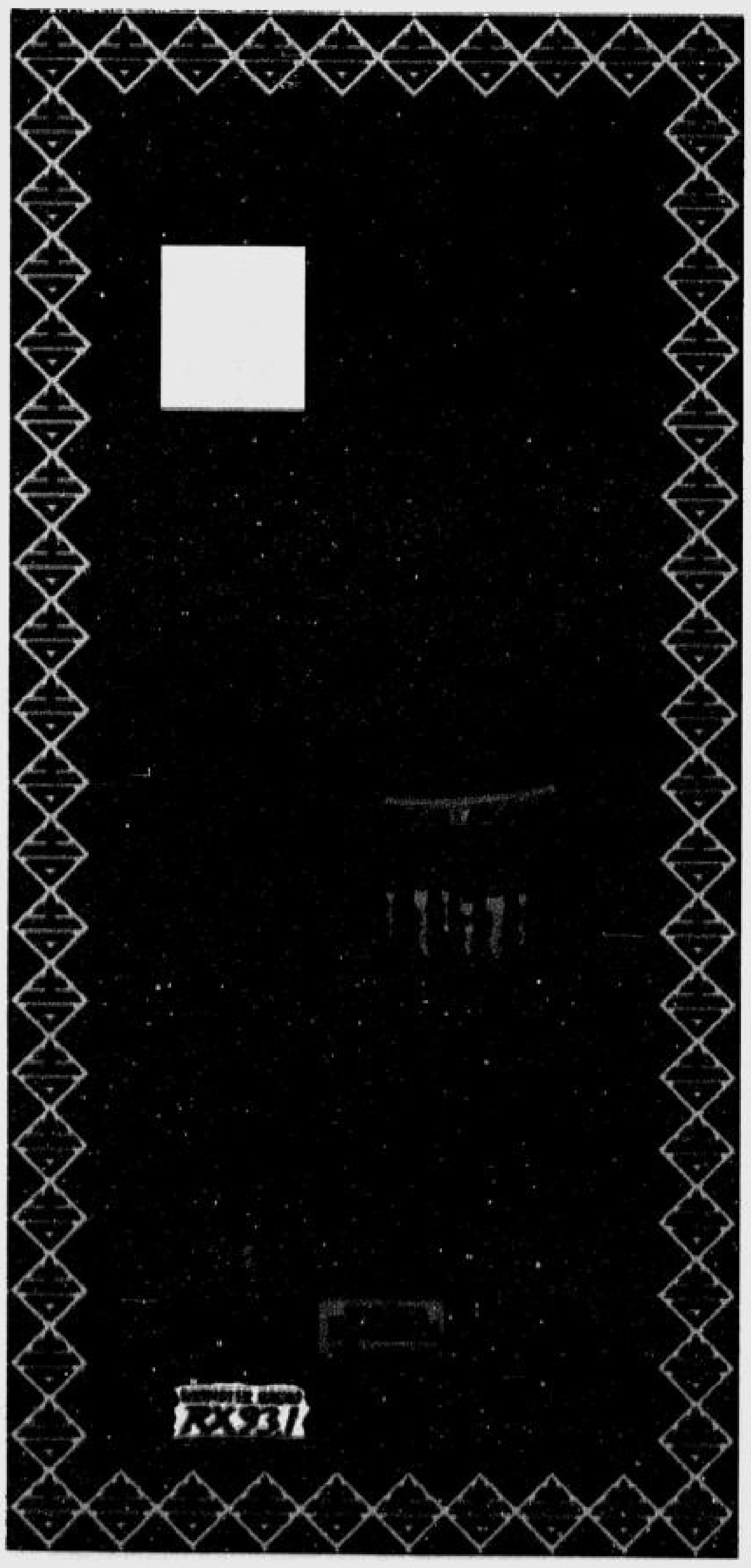
Writing. Writing is as essential to me as breathing. This is my No. 1 passion. Without writing, I am not me. Enough said.

The people I love. While I value the little time I have left for myself, I live for the moments I get to spend with my friends. I confess to being antisocial and I value the few who are able to break through my supposed tough exterior. The 2bU! gang, my class in UST (3C5 Journalism) and the few decent specimens of the male species that I have come to know as my good pals—they bring peace and balance to my otherwise insane existence. I love my friends—I would kill for them.

Minus a few entries, my list is worldly belongings overload, I know. Might as well say goodbye to martyrdom now. But hey, I never said I could be a saint.

Pam Pastor

E-mail the author at cookiedoughjunkie-@yahoo.com



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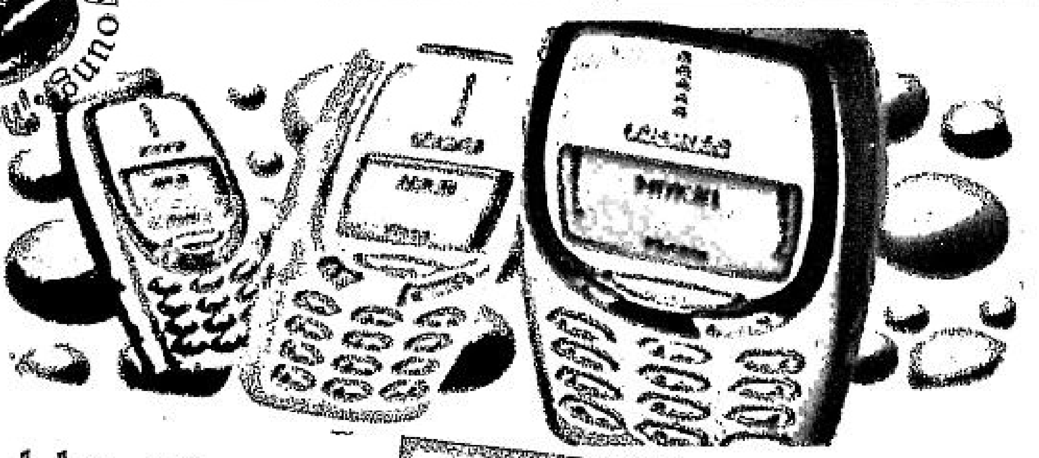

The addiction Scrapbook

Unlikely 'narcotics': Mentos, beauty contests and Friday's

'Where's my Napster?'

"MOTHER…I just can't get enough, I just can't get enough…" or so goes the New Radicals song. While I am nowhere near to drug addiction or about to join Alcoholics Anonymous, I am prone to addictions. Who could forget the time in high school when the only candy I would eat was candy corn, and that I got so sick of the candy before Halloween came and I had to endure the sight of it when I went trick-or-treating. Or the time I was addicted to Jelly Belly jelly beans after discovering a kiosk that had them in their stockroom. And the time I found Napster? I racked up an unbelievable Net bill, thanks to my constant MP3 hunts.

While I probably have a long, long list of things that make me go haywire and what people can give to pacify me, I have to admit that just like the trends, what's hot for me today may become rotten by tomorrow. Which is why I decided to just make a list of the things I'm sweating for *today*. Hey, the world isn't perfect. Which makes me thank Lord didn't do more than sketch "Maui and Marco" on every sheet of notebook paper in high school (Marco was my dreamy high school prom date. Hence the "here today, gone tomorrow" addiction. If you met him, believe me, you'd be obsessed, too.)

Music. Do I have to say this again? This is my *life*. I don't know much about music but I do know that I love it, and I can't live without it. I always say music is like doors that you can open and you escape into this other world. I recently unearthed my Third Eye Blind CD and can't stop spinning it! I also collect signed CDs.

Mentos Cool Chews. I can't help it. I bought a pack when the grocery didn't have my Smints and I just keep on poppin' them in my mouth. They're chewy but stronger than the average Mentos.

Anything 'Animaniacs.' I drew a mural of the Warner brothers and Warner sister on my wall the summer of '97. Since they're not famous here, the only thing I have of them is a pin, a Wakko doll I got in Hong Kong back in the summer of '96 (he's my fave!), and the Sing-Along tapes (call me a retard, I don't care.)

Good food. My friends in school would probably say all I do all day is whine and complain that I'm either bored, sleepy, or hungry. And I can't help it. Sneaking in food during class or just chowing down on every given moment is something I can't help doing. Ask the people at INQUIRER—I ask them a day *before* we meet up *where* they plan on having dinner. And I don't think Jason would disagree when I say Tequila Joe's Big-Time Chops are worth the wait! I'd beg on my knees for garlic sticks from Bacolod, a pack of Maltesers and a bag of Cheetos.

The Internet. Where else can you communicate, explore and shop all in one place while in your PJs?! I can log on and stay online for hours and not even remember what I did the whole time! I am addicted to finding new sites, downloading programs and meeting new people on the Net. It's so much better looking at clothes online without the pesky salespeople who eye you as if you're about to shoplift in their store.

My new computer. I just had to let the whole world know that I have finally replaced my prehistoric Windows 95 "and-it-was-upgraded!" computer with a Pentium IV Netvista with an LCD screen. And I will probably keep this baby until I turn 30 (give me a break—it was a well-deserved 18th birthday present).

'Buffy the Vampire Slayer.' I can watch reruns and still enjoy them. Ever since Amanda and I caught the pilot of the first season, I've been hooked.

Movies. Back in high school, every Saturday was movie day. My buddy Amanda and I would head to the movies and just pick out a random flick to screen. I am not a movie critic and I just watch movies for sheer entertainment. Since Amanda moved to Bacolod, I had to find someone who'd watch movies with me. Which brings me to my last addiction…

My boyfriend and the 'Platypals' (2bU! gang). I think this is pretty obvious. Who else can take me the movies, share a laugh *and* make Mondays bearable? Not my English teacher, that's for sure! Over the summer I have met and spent a lot of time with a bunch of freaks who not only made my summer memorable, but have taught me how to love and how to open up to people. I can't get enough of the usual "*Saan tayo pagkatapos ng* meeting?" or the eternal question: "Where are we going to eat today?" And I am glad to say we have finally moved on to delivery and hardly walk to McDonald's on Monday nights. (Well, maybe Jason still does, but oh well.)

Maui V. Reyes

Mister Universe

MY life is boring. Just recently, I came across a question in a survey asking me about my passion in life. It took me more than 10 minutes to think of an answer that I didn't bother to write it down anymore. Although I am a writer, I couldn't say that I'm absolutely devoted to it. Heck, I couldn't even update my journals. And so it was extremely difficult for me to think of things to which I'm addicted to for this week's issue. Fortunately, the third season of "Survivor" has just premiered recently and so it reminded me that I'm actually passionate about something. But then, I asked myself, if I'm addicted to "Survivor," why didn't I immediately thought of it when I was given this writing assignment?

All the same, whatever my answer is, I wouldn't claim to be "Survivor's" No. 1 fan or whatever title there is to people like me who seem to have not so much of a life. I missed most of the first season's episode and one from the second. However, I've sworn to change my viewing habits by saying no to Friday night-outs just so AXN and I can have some quiet little time by ourselves and some other 16 smelly-looking people. Despite the fact that there are replays, I cant bear to hear other fans talk about what happened that Friday night and I didn't get to see it. And to prove my conviction for this new resolution, I actually got to see the premiere episode of "Survivor: Africa" for four times, thanks to its repeated telecasts.

Another addiction is the beauty contest. The Miss Universe pageant is of course on top of my list, but there came a time when even the noontime show variety caught my interest. It was a delight to watch the contestants, not in the swimsuit, but question-and-answer category as they sweat to deliver the wittiest answer they could come up. Take, for example, the answer of one candidate to the question, "*Kung may* magic carpet *ka, saan mo dadalhin ang mahal mo sa buhay?*" "*Sa isang napakagandang tanawin tulad ng garden!*" I laughed so hard that it felt like I did a hundred sit-ups.

The Miss Universe, however, I treat with seriousness. My father and I make bets as to who'd make it far, and usually, he fares better than me. Last May, I decided to go as far as researching about the contestants over the Internet, and I was able to guess eight out of the 10 semifinalists who made it.

When I was still young, I was also addicted to Jessica Zafra. My teacher asked me who my favorite Filipino author was and the only writer that ran through my mind was Jose Rizal. I was too ashamed of this so I said no one. "Not even Zafra?" she asked. And so that started my journey through her "Twisted" series. I carried her books with me every day in the hope that I'd get to see her in the mall and ask for her autograph. One time, she did a book-signing for the launch of her new "Twisted" compilation. Since it coincided with an important class, I asked my sister to go there for me. She went there to have Jessica's book signed as told. When I opened its first page, my ever-considerate sister had the book addressed to her. Aargh!

Although my body doesn't show it, I'm very addicted to McDonald's. No week passes by without me ordering my usual diet: Cheeseburger meal (large Coke and fries), six-piece Chicken McNuggets, extra rice and hot fudge sundae. I order that whenever I go to the INQUIRER office, see a movie, before I go to Mass or afterward, or when I'm just plain bored. And it never fails to make my day (especially the fries).

I see my addiction as the extension of my fantasies. Experiencing the adventure of a lifetime, looking good inside-out (and being famous for it), echoing the sentiments of the young generation through flawless writing and having my own McDonald's store at home. Though my life is a bore, at least I hope that it won't be for long. But for now, I'd have to do with my books, TV and Ronald.

Jason Doplito

E-mail the author at jason_2bu@yahoo.com

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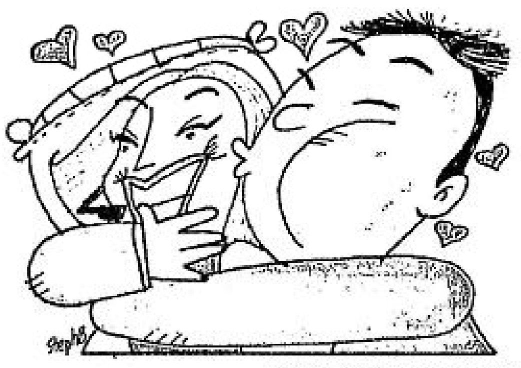


ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

What are you hooked on?

2bU! readers spill the beans on their own addictions

"I'm addicted to *siomai*."—**JP, 19**

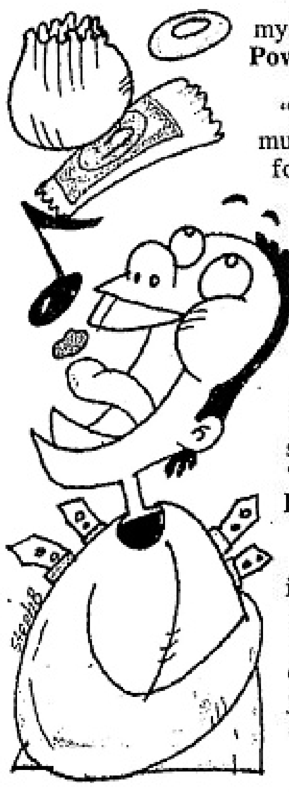
"Music. Listening to music makes me feel good."—**Jiorg, 18**

"Watching TV, collecting Winnie the Pooh items 'cause they're cute, and hanging out with my friends because I like their company and they bring out the best in me."—**Eliza, 16**

"I'm addicted to soya bean milk."—**Carlo, 26**

"Fashion and clothes because that's how I express myself."—**Mary Joy, 17**

"Music and ketchup. I consume eight sachets of ketchup at McDonald's in just one sitting."—**Gudo, 18**



"Music. I am not myself without it."—**Pow, 16**

"I am very fond of music. I play bass for my band Rasta."—**Yan, 17**

"Joey, Phoebe, Ross, Chandler, Monica and Rachel (characters in the American television sitcom 'Friends')."—**Felice, 17**

"Billiards *kasi* idol *ko si* Bata, and basketball 'cause I get to exercise and enjoy myself."—**Jaypee, 17**

"Car accessories, girls, sushi, PC games, especially Counter-Strike, coffee, billiards."—**Chester Cham, 25**

"Video games, music, shoes, clothes, movies, art, intellectually stimulating conversations and Nagaraya Butter Cracker Nuts."—**Ronald Pasion**

"I'm addicted to playing Counter-Strike."—**Patrick Mayo, 20**

"Cell phones and cars."—**Niño, 22**

"Dirty magazines and pirated CDs."—**Jello, 25**

"Watching anime. *Gusto ko lang manood nang manood ng* anime—*ang* cute *kasi eh*."—**Gil, 17**

"*Yosi*! Smoking satisfies me. I feel incomplete without cigarettes."—**Nikki, 17**

"Technology. Couldn't live without e-mail, my cell phone and TV."—**Alvin Chingcuangco, 25**

"Counter-Strike."—**Benedict, 21**

"My cell phone and shoes."—**Lei, 18**

"Eating pizza and *yakee* bubblegum, listening to hardcore music and spending time with Maru, my girlfriend."—**Bi, 17**

"I'm addicted to Britney Spears 'cause she is so hot. I want to make her my pillow."—**Rico, 18, DJ**

"Music."—**Ced, 17**

"Friends. I think of them before I think of myself. I really treasure them."—**Rachel, 17**

"Aji Ichiban's grape jelly-filled marshmallows and Percussion Freaks."—**JM**

With reports from Powie Pastor

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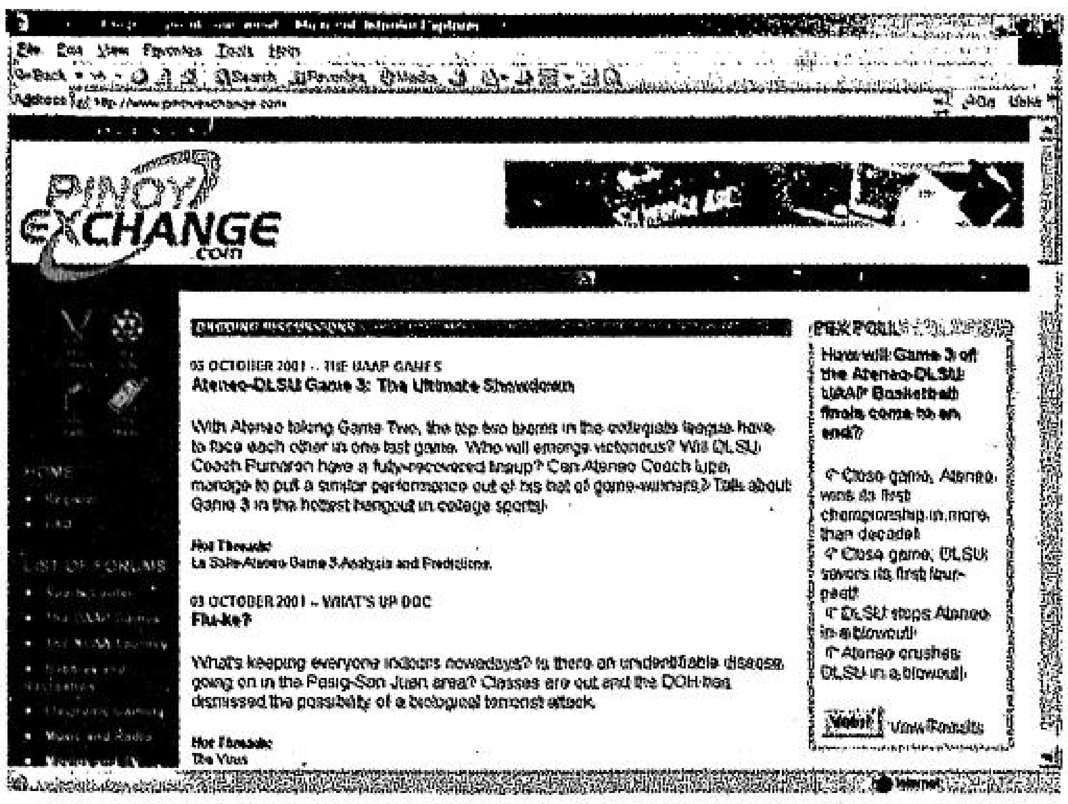
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03 OCTOBER 2001 -- THE UAAP GAMES
Ateneo-DLSU Game 3: The Ultimate Showdown

With Ateneo taking Game Two, the top two teams in the collegiate league have to face each other in one last game. Who will emerge victorious? Will DLSU Coach Pumaren have a fully-recovered lineup? Can Ateneo Coach Uge manage to pull a similar performance out of his hat of game-winners? Talk about Game 3 in the hottest hangout in college sports!

Hot Threads:
La Salle-Ateneo Game 3 Analysis and Predictions.

03 OCTOBER 2001 -- WHAT'S UP DOC
Flu-ke?

What's keeping everyone indoors nowadays? Is there an unidentifiable disease going on in the Pasig-San Juan area? Classes are out and the DOH has dismissed the possibility of a biological terrorist attack.

Hot Threads:
The Virus

How will Game 3 of the Ateneo-DLSU UAAP Basketball finals come to an end?

○ Close game, Ateneo wins its first championship in more than decade!
○ Close game, DLSU savors its first four-peat!
○ DLSU stops Ateneo in a blowout!
○ Ateneo crushes DLSU in a blowout!

Vote! View Results

Confessions of a PEx addict

BY MIGUEL PARAZ

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I AM a PEx addict. I speak my mind way too often and I spend almost my online time on it. This is the world of PinoyExchange.

The shortcut for PinoyExchange, PEx, is a common word for many Internet users. It is officially pronounced "P Eks," but is often shorted to "Peks." Members are called PExers. Speaking the word as one syllable makes it short and sweet—the perfect verbal match for "Speak Your Mind."

The site is primarily a bulletin board for posting messages, but its impact has spread far beyond its initial intent. My addiction has driven me to daydream about it too much, but at the same time engage in activities I would never have thought about. So far it has been the truest example of online activities driving and accelerating real life.

"Speak Your Mind" is the byline of PinoyExchange, and it urges the member to engage in discussion-driven community. I first "spoke my mind" in February 2000, when I logged in for the first time. A moderator whom I met at another mailing list invited me to join. I was attracted initially to the business and technical discussions, but it was the hanging out and "getting to know you" that made me stick around. If you were not into the community aspect, then you would see purely for utility, and would not keep on coming back. My experience was that I vary my level of involvement in it, but I could never quit. One of the frustrating things in daily life is when the PEx system does not work properly, disrupting the essential flow of communication.

My first EB was a small one in April 2000. EB is Filipino Net-speak for eyeball or get-together. When I really got into the community circuit in the third quarter of 2000, I was calling for EBs and organizing them. With face-to-face get-togethers, people who only knew themselves by nickname got the chance to know each other as real-life friends.

In early PEx history, it was a joke to talk about who were the "love teams" in the real world. As more couples met (and broke up) due to PEx, it became more obvious that the online community parallels real life. I confess that I am also into PEx crushes, and am looking forward to get to know someone from PEx in the "romantic" sense. Take note that not everything in PEx happens online and is public knowledge. So much happens in real life, but is just hinted at online.

The "Ex" of PEx can also stand for "experience." Bringing like-minded people into a forum that makes them discuss—and often argue or flame—is enough to drive real-world experiences to the next level. These experiences are formalized through Clubs, which are gatherings of members for particular purposes. One such Club is the Book Club, which discusses books every month.

I joined the Book Club to address my lack of knowledge in literature, and I am happy I have learned a lot about books, the people who read them and the insights they carry. The most significant meeting in the Club's history was the one held in early October, which featured a book of artist Jim Paredes conducting the meeting with the author himself. The other Clubs are for the Wiccan practice, for the Outdoors and for Anime and Manga.

PExers events are also held for a cause—such as the Outreach EB of Christmas 2000, where I joined PExers to bring cheer to the Bahay Maria orphanage. My Santa Claus impression fits well with my online image. At a separate event earlier this year, the business forum of PEx held a promo called Piso Mula sa PExers where anonymous donors contributed money for donating P1 per post within three months to the Chosen Children Foundation. These make me happy in a deep way since they allow me to express my desire to help and do something significant. Doing it with friends has even more impact.

Experiences also come online. Contests are held on the system, with the PExurvivor being the most significant from my point of view. It is the closest there has been to a PExing contest, spanning a few weeks and turning PEx into a spectator sport. An unofficial experience is when the online community goes into twists and turns, like flame wars when members pounce on each other.

Part of the spectacle is when members create alternate identities or nicknames—"alternicks"—to fight each other, make fun or sometimes simply to have fun. There have always been alternicks present to post messages in cute ways and make *hirit* and the best times, but sometimes it goes overboard and the moderators have to lock messages and even ban the nicknames from logging in. Some of my friends really drive me rolling on the floor laughing with their antics, and I've been hyped up by my own jokes, alternicks or otherwise. (Secret!)

PEx rewards its members. Every so often there are Members in Focus who have featured interviews on the site, with me being the first ever. During the Grand EB or PEx parties (previously featured at 2bU), awards were given by popular vote for those with the best discussions and the most endearing qualities—Friendliest, Most Visible and Most Valuable PExers. Nevertheless, even if you just stay online and never come to a party, the PEx experience of "exchange" will truly stick to you. I confess that once you start on PEx, you will not stop. Enjoy!

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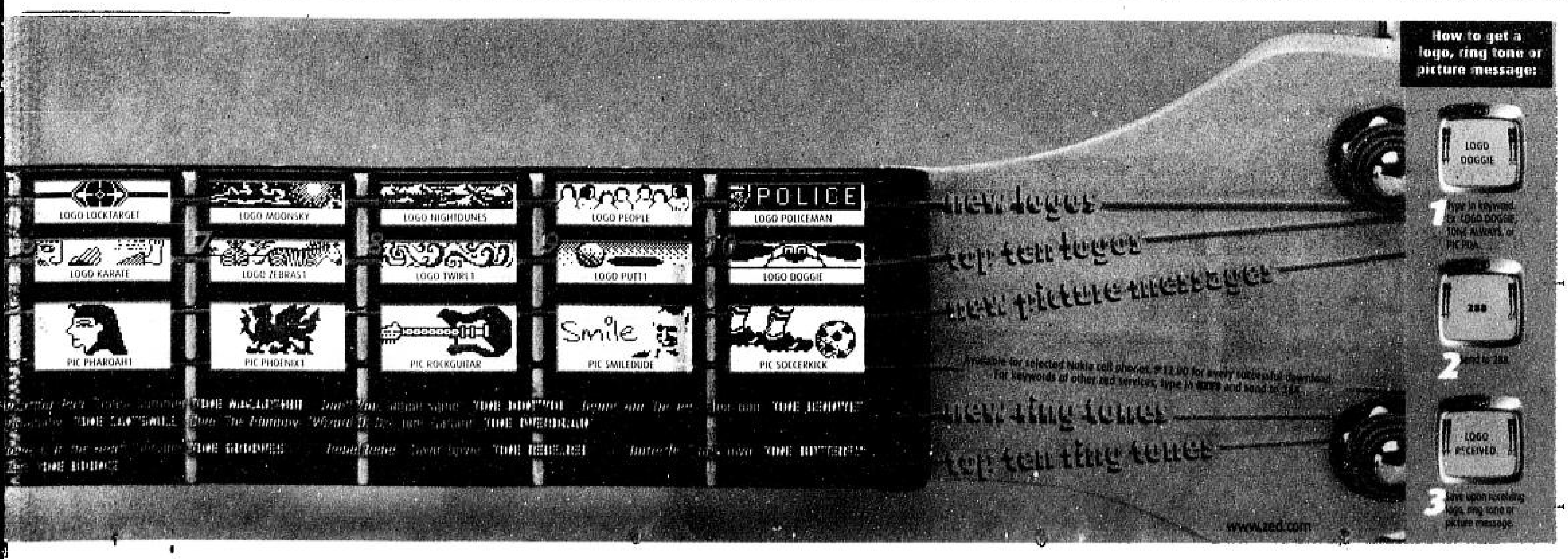
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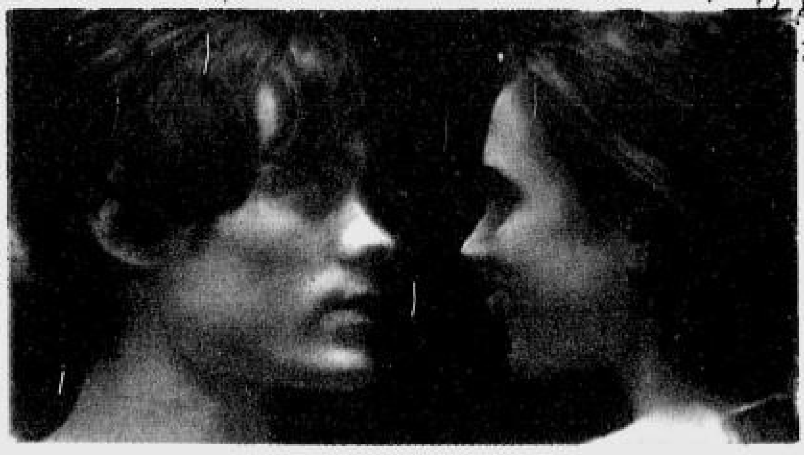


HARRY Goldfarb (Jared Leto), Marion Silver (Jennifer Connely)

Film tells it like it is

By Alexis Tioseco

REQUIEM for a Dream" should have been the best movie of 2000.

The movie is about a killer called addiction, which eats at your soul and weakens your resolve. Addiction is ugly, brutal, unforgiving and, worst of all, self-imposed.

The problem has no easy answers, no simple solutions. All there is the stark reality of knowing it is not going to be over soon. Addiction can come in any form. It can involve the usual things like drugs or food or more unusual ones like power or television.

"Requiem for a Dream" does not attempt to give easy answers or one-line solutions. It knows there are none. What it does is present you with the reality in all its unflinching horror.

The story is based on a novel of the same title by Hubery Selby Jr. It was adapted for the screen by the film director Darren Aronofsky. Coming off the heels of his first film, the acclaimed indie hit "Pi," Aronofsky skillfully weaves stories of four characters, an old, lonely, naïve widowed mother, Sara Goldfarb (Ellen Burstyn, nominated for, and should have won, an Academy Award for her role), her son Harry (Jared Leto), his beautiful girlfriend Marion (Jennifer Connelly) and his best friend Tyrone (Marlon Wayans, in a completely serious role).

The film plays out just as the title suggests, as a requiem—defined as a mass or funeral song for the dead—for the hopes and dreams of each of the characters.

Sara is addicted to television and sugar. She is a lonely widow, the TV her only company. She sits in front of it, day in and day out with a box of chocolates, watching a silly game show whose host and audience chant: "We've got a winner!" and "Be excited! Be excited!"

She receives a call one day, one of those crazy junk calls, saying she is going to be on television. She believes it and it becomes the turning point of her world. She tries to lose weight to fit into a red dress, which she wore for Harry's graduation, eventually getting hooked on diet pills.

"You take them and you don't wanna eat!" her friend tells her. It gets ugly. Grinding teeth, nightmarish hallucinations, ugly.

Sympathetic characters

Her son Harry, his girlfriend Marion and best friend Tyrone are all hooked. They feel good when they are high. They plan a get-rich-quick scheme to buy drugs and sell them for profit. Simple? Not when you cannot keep enough of it to sell. They all fall, and fall hard.

ONE of the memorable scenes

MARLON Wayans in a serious role

You feel an awkward sympathy for these characters. They are not terrible people and they are not trying to hurt anyone. They want to make each other happy, to connect with one another, but they try to do it through artificial means—by satisfying the fix instead of the need. "If ever there's a TV junkie it's the old lady," Harry says before giving his Mom a big screen TV. Through actions like that, you gain an understanding of the characters, of their nature. Sarah does not want a TV. All she wants is for her son to visit her once in a while.

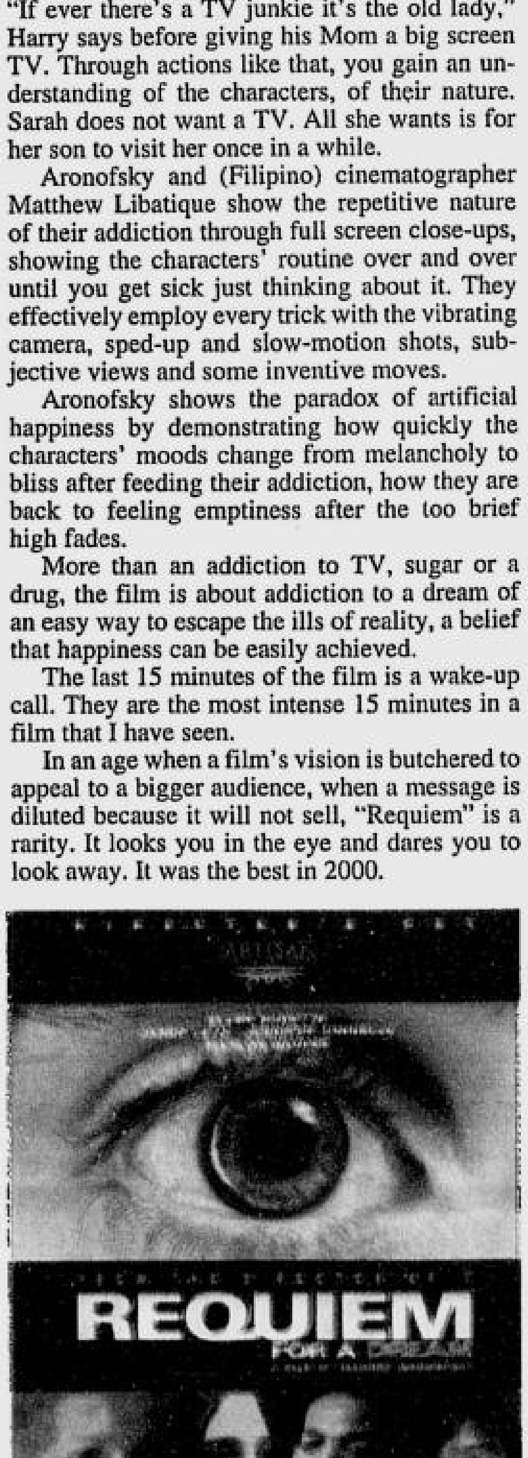
Aronofsky and (Filipino) cinematographer Matthew Libatique show the repetitive nature of their addiction through full screen close-ups, showing the characters' routine over and over until you get sick just thinking about it. They effectively employ every trick with the vibrating camera, sped-up and slow-motion shots, subjective views and some inventive moves.

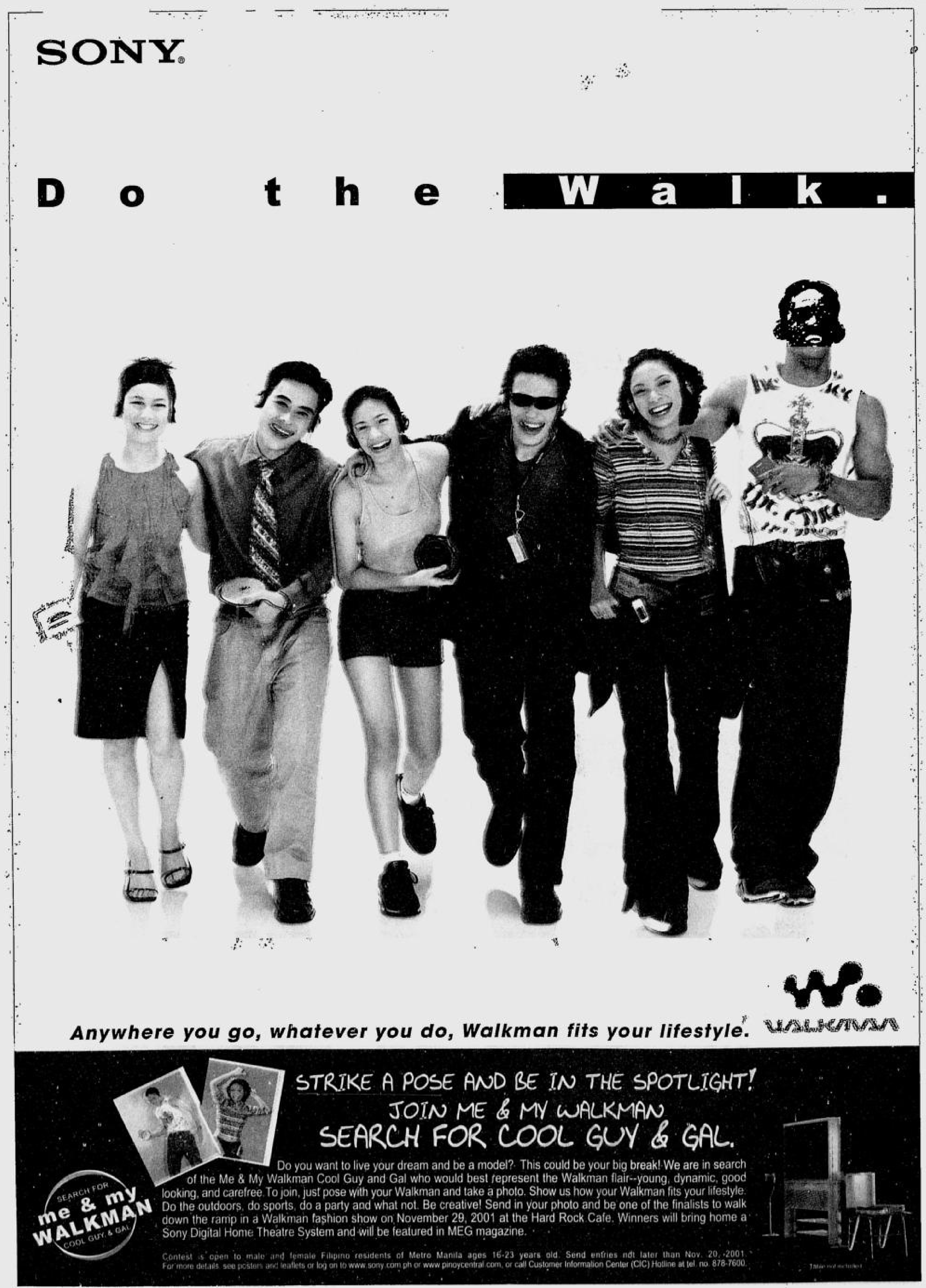
Aronofsky shows the paradox of artificial happiness by demonstrating how quickly the characters' moods change from melancholy to bliss after feeding their addiction, how they are back to feeling emptiness after the too brief high fades.

More than an addiction to TV, sugar or a drug, the film is about addiction to a dream of an easy way to escape the ills of reality, a belief that happiness can be easily achieved.

The last 15 minutes of the film is a wake-up call. They are the most intense 15 minutes in a film that I have seen.

In an age when a film's vision is butchered to appeal to a bigger audience, when a message is diluted because it will not sell, "Requiem" is a rarity. It looks you in the eye and dares you to look away. It was the best in 2000.

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SEARCH FOR me & my WALKMAN COOL GUY & GAL

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FACE-TO-FACE with Aya Perez and Jed Dario

INSOMNIAC whiskey lovers Rem Zamora and Tricia Chiongbian

TENNESSEE TANDEM. Ralby Tambunting and Rosa de Sequera

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SMOOTH CONCOCTION. Cutie Del Mar, Cheska Garcia and Chris Mathay

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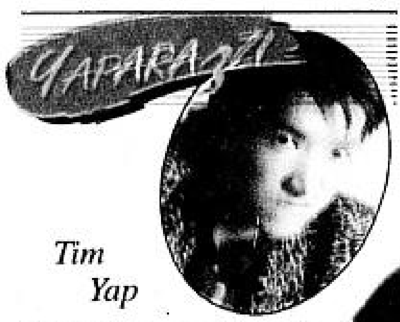


Tim Yap

THAT was exactly what transpired late September when Jack Daniel's, that man fondly called Mr. Jack, had his umpteenth natal day treat at the RCBC Plaza lobby. Jack Daniel's is the man behind the smoothest sippin' charcoal mellowed concoction—spoken like a true whiskey connoisseur.

The boring blank halls of the bank building all of a sudden sprung new life as black and white balloons dangled from its ceilings. JD cowboys were hot, hot, hot in their leather collection by young edgy designer **Veejay Golamco** as they paraded their southern drills, I mean drawls. Anchored on their waists were whiskey holsters, giving out shots all night, to the delight of partyphile that night.

Southern hostess **Tricia Chiongbian** led a toast to ol' number 7 as DJ **Bobet Villaluz** jacked up the spirits higher with his magnetic wave of music. Then came the performance of Dyvest band, singing hits that everybody could groove to and kept the guests on their toes—dancing! It had been so long since I last saw a band. It seemed like most of the guests, too. "Uh, what's with this music?" reacted techno-manics. Well, sometimes variety is the key.

As these things go, a giant boitday cake was brought out—with a Southern belle hopping out of the creamy concoction. Good thing she wasn't naked or else the male-dominated crowd would have lost control, what with the all nighter of an open bar that was hosted that night, not to mention the blackjack tables set up with JD7 prizes.

EEEEhhhawww! And Happy birthday, Mr. Jack.

Hazy highlights

While you are reading this, I am probably on my way back from my European working holiday. So what's worth looking forward to this month?

This Thursday marks the self-titled art exhibit of young artist **Liaa Favis** as she unveils recent works in watercolor, pastel and pencil at Flute Wine Bar.

Then Friday, San Miguel Beer sponsors Mandarin Oriental Hotel's version of the Oktoberfest. This two-night function happens at the NBC Tent this Friday and Saturday.

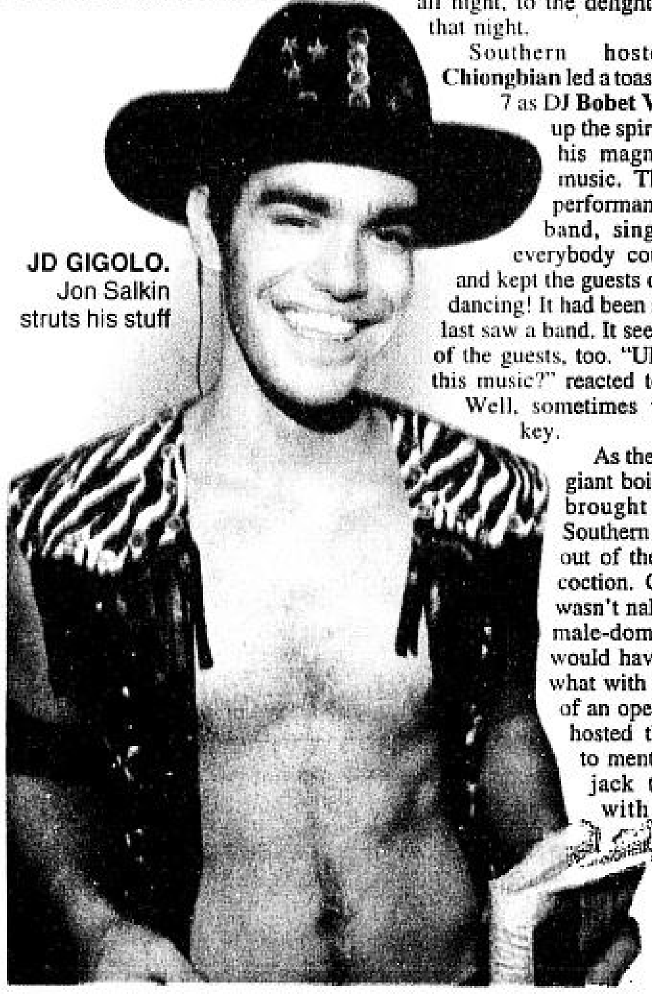
Also this weekend, part of the SMB Oktoberfest calendar is the Masskara Festival, Bacolod's best! Don your most colorful as you dance, drink and dine in the streets in this most vibrant Filipino feast.

Hazy highlight of this month is designer **Rhett Eala**'s fashion gala next Thursday which happens again, at the RCBC Plaza lobby. Then, there is the Halloween ball of the season, Globe Telecom's and Ayala Center's "Witches and Wizards Ball," with MTV as official music channel.

"Expect the unexpected," warned Ayala Land's **Cathy Bengson** of this magical madness of an event. "This early, get your costumes ready as fabulous prizes are going to be given away," hinted MTV's **Rod Nepomuceno**. Globe's top-of-the-line phones or trips around the world perhaps?

Well, whatever happens, no muggles allowed.

JACK'S BUDS. Brown Forman's Agnes Ballesteros and Chu Pak Chu


JD GIGOLO. Jon Salkin struts his stuff

PURR-FECT. Zine's Ria Vinzon spotted at Jack's bash

PRODUCER AND STAR. Designer Rhett Eala and Tara Santos

WHISKEY TRIO. Inigo Elizalde, Katrina Tuazon and Joey Pineda

WHERELSE IS VENEZIA? Marcel Crespo with Louie Yamael

STAR Liza Ilarde and hubby Elbert Cuenca

She's annoyed by a prettier chum who befriends her crushes

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

There's this girl that I've gotten close to. I met her only last year when she shifted to my course. We started hanging out and became best friends.

She's prettier than I am. I'm comfortable with that in the beginning, but after a while, not anymore. Of late, I've noticed that whenever I tell her about a new crush, she immediately befriends that guy. And it's not hard for her to seduce them because she's pretty. I'm just annoyed because it seems like she's going after the guys that I like. I've been avoiding her lately for it has gotten to the point that I can't even talk to her civilly. Am I doing the right thing? What should I do? She's a good friend. No, she was a good friend until she started acting like that. Please help me.

MELROSE

If I were in your position, I'd probably give her the cold shoulder, too. But that wouldn't be nipping the problem at the bud, which is what you should do if you want to save your friendship. It is hard to talk to someone who angers you, but unless you tell her that she's been getting on your nerves, not only would she keep on befriending your crushes but she would remain clueless, as well, as to why you've been avoiding her. Then you'd look like the bad friend. Tell her straight that you don't appreciate her being friendly with the guys that you like. If she were a good friend, she would take the hint and stop doing it. If not, if she does it again after a while, then tell her that you can't remain friends with someone who doesn't know how to listen.

I think it's best that you confront her without your other friends around. Don't embarrass her or attack her verbally because your friend is still innocent of her shortcomings. And keep the matter between the two of you. Don't bring in your other friends because they don't have anything to do with the problem. I hope you'd solve your problem and keep the friendship, too.

SEP

It sounds like your problem is one of miscommunication and misappropriation of duties and strategies. If she really were your best friend, then she'd meet these minor Adonises of yours, eventually, right? Whether you or she or the targets of your admiration made the first move, they would have to make a choice on whether to go for the "no problem" girl or the "no thanks" girl.

"Prettier" doesn't exist in the vocabulary of the confident and the strong when there is more to offer than beauty, which is but skin-deep. Although it seems "prettier" really does matter to you, if only because unlike you, she is able to confront any guy worth a chat with ease. Tip: Most guys would be pleased to meet a woman who doesn't hide her face at the water fountain as he passes by. You better turn up the heat and get your share of the action before global warming creates permanent damaging effects, unless you can do your thing floating on your back like an otter. If girls with "prettier best friends" went extinct all of a sudden, it wouldn't be because Bush screwed Alaska. It'd be because you took too long to make your move.

Most smart girls would first make sure that they have a battle plan before revealing their strategies. Alliances are definitely part of "Survivor: College (OutSneak, OutSmoke and OutPass)." Normally, girls would team up and play "Hook, Line and Sinker" where the prettier girl befriends the subject and infuses him with praise for you. Loosely translated from Filipino, she walks you, hence (voila!) our prized "Analogy of the Week for the Logically Skewed": "You could make a good pair if you use the right motivational techniques. Like the blind man and his seeing eye dog, you could sniff 'em out while he groped for the answers."

I thought "Clueless" was standard college research material, but I guess I was wrong.

CARLOS

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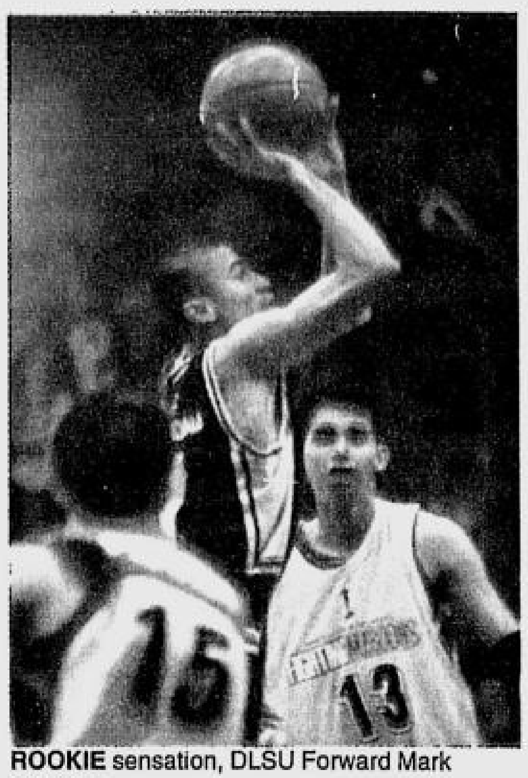
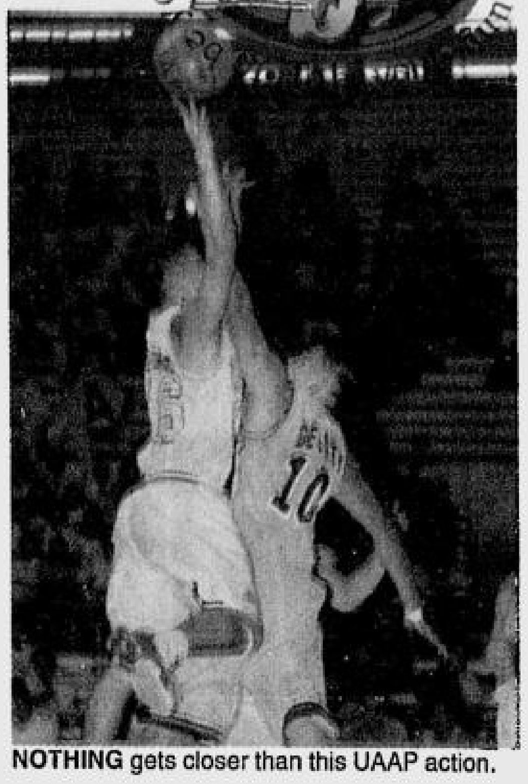


ROOKIE sensation, DLSU Forward Mark Cardona



NOTHING gets closer than this UAAP action.

UAAP Season '64 memorable moments, personalities

By Jude Turcuato

WITH THE FINALS filled with chants of "we believe" and "four-ward," it might be refreshing to look back at this year's University Athletic Association of the Phils.' (UAAP) basketball tournament. Here are my picks for the highs and lows of season '64.

Most Valuable Player:

Ren Ren Ritualo. Arguably the best clutch player in the UAAP in the last decade. It is a shame that he never won the official UAAP Most Valuable Player (MVP) award during his five-year stay at De la Salle University.

Honorable mention: Richie Alvarez of Ateneo de Manila University.

Rookie of the Year:

Mark Cardona (DLSU). Despite the controversies, "Captain Hook" stayed focused on his game and even put up better numbers than Ritualo in some instances.

Honorable mention: L.A. Tenorio (AdMU)

Coach of the Year:

Manny Dandan. National University (NU) made the semis for the first time since the final four format was implemented. He did it without Danny Ildefonso and Lordy Tugade.

Honorable mention: Franz Pumaren (DLSU)

Defensive Player of the Year:

Richie Alvarez (AdMU). He is strong enough to guard big men and quick enough to guard some forwards effectively.

Honorable mention: Leo Avenido of the Far Eastern University (FEU)

Offensive Player of the Year:

Leo Avenido (FEU). He surpassed the 30-point mark more than once this year and scored in many different ways.

Honorable mention: James Yap University of the East (UE)

Sportsmanship Award:

Mike Cortez (DLSU). I think the reason he is such a great point guard is because he is always calm and collected when tempers start flaring up.

Honorable mention: Paul Tan-Chi (AdMU)

Most Improved Player:

Froilan Baguion (NU). This guy came out of nowhere to become one of the premier guards in the league.

Honorable mention: Leo Avenido (FEU).

Comeback of the Year:

University of the Philippines Maroons. Coming all the way from 22 points down in the third quarter to beat the FEU Tamaraws.

Honorable mention: DLSU Green Archers (19 points)

Most Disappointing Player:

Alwin Espiritu (University of Santo Tomas). With the departure of Latoreno, Lao and Ortiguarra, I thought he would take over and put up MVP-like numbers, but he was constantly in foul trouble.

Honorable mention: Robson Bornancin (UP)

Chairman of the Boards:

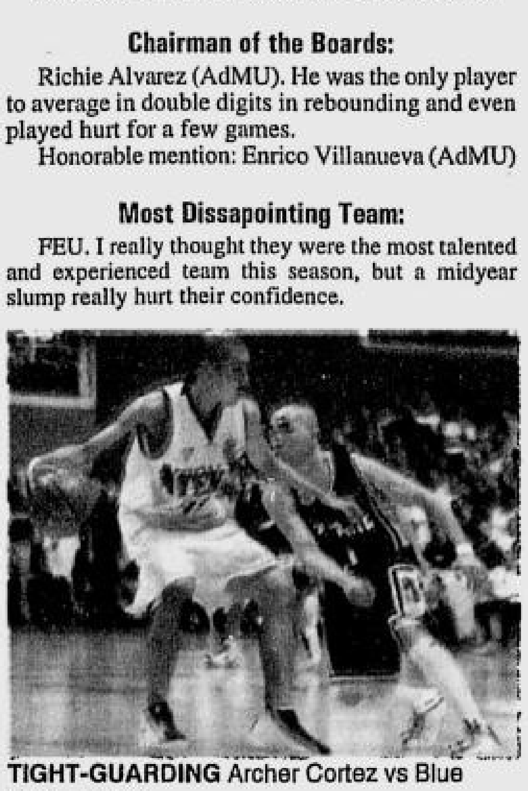
Richie Alvarez (AdMU). He was the only player to average in double digits in rebounding and even played hurt for a few games.

Honorable mention: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU)

Most Dissapointing Team:

FEU. I really thought they were the most talented and experienced team this season, but a midyear slump really hurt their confidence.

Honorable mention: Adamson



TIGHT-GUARDING Archer Cortez vs Blue Eagle Sison

DREAM FINALE. Ateneo vs La Salle

Most Underrated Player:

Abraham Santos (UP). He filled in admirably for the slumping Bornancin and led the team in rebounds, while only Bravo and Madarang scored more points.

Honorable mention: Christian Luanzon (UST)

Most Exciting Game of the Year:

The knockout game between UE and NU that went into double overtime.

Honorable mention: Game 3 of the Finals? (This was written before the sudden death game so I'm guessing.)

Best Pep Squad:

UP. They won the cheering competition and their halftime performances were very entertaining.

Honorable mention: Ateneo Blue Babble

Most Amazing Shot of the Year:

Mark Cardona (DLSU). He made the longest shot I have ever seen in the UAAP, banking it in from the back court free throw line.

Best Courtside Reporter:

George Rocha (DLSU). A year's experience has made her very comfortable in front of the camera and she gives a lot of insight in her reports.

Honorable mention: Iyan Idewuya and Jorel Legaspi of FEU and UP, respectively

Mr. Hustle Award:

Mark Cardona. He is relentless on both sides of the court. Any coach would love to have this guy on his team.

Honorable mention: Andrew Cruz (AdMU)

Comeback Player of the Year:

BJ Manalo (DLSU). After being saddled with unfortunate injuries, he contributed positively to the Archers.

Honorable mention: Patrick Madarang (UP)

Heartbreak Kids of the Year:

Adamson. They just could not seem to get over the hump, losing a lot of games in the last few minutes.

Honorable mention: UP Maroons.

Best Shooter:

Ritualo. Despite being the focal point of the opposition's defense, a little opening is all he needs to hurt you from the perimeter.

Honorable mention: Ranier Sison (AdMU)

Best Player to Not Play a Single Minute:

Marco Benitez (AdMU). The Southridge product, who can shoot as well as anyone in the league, did not get even a few seconds of playing time.

Best Clutch Player:

Ritualo. He has proved it time and again.

Honorable mention: Magnum Membrere (AdMU)

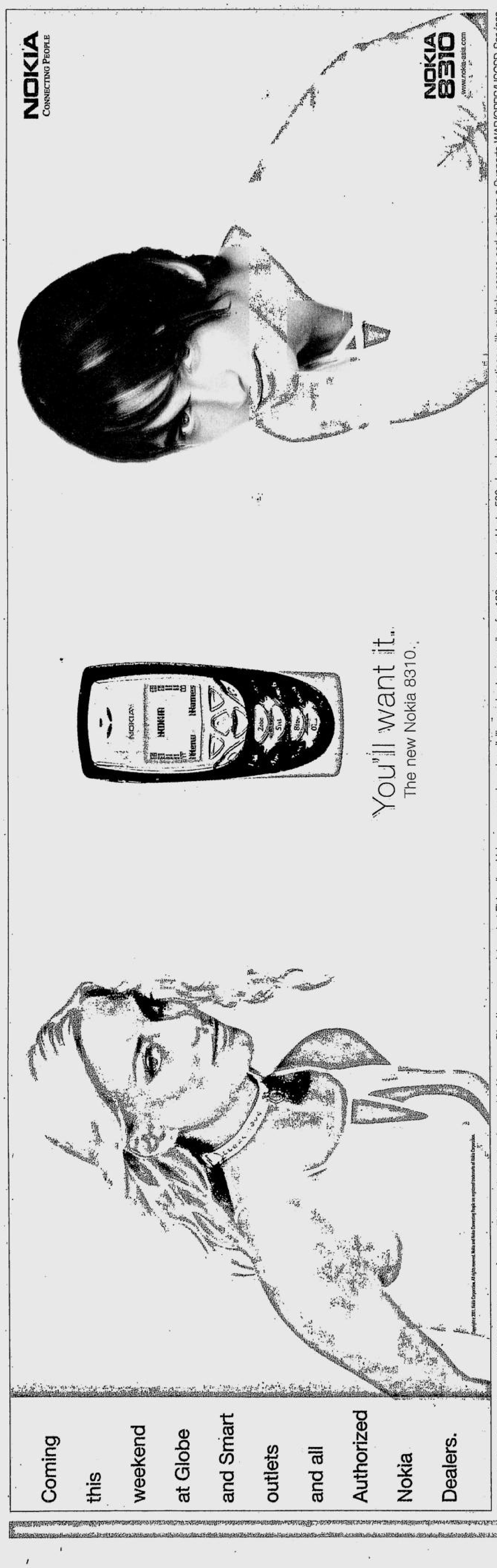
Best Single Game Performance:

Ritualo. Scoring 33 points in the opening game against arch rival Ateneo. He hit from every angle imaginable against a focused defense.

Best Website:

Pinoyexchange.com. Still the most visited site when it comes to the UAAP game discussions.

Honorable mention: Pinoycentral/University Belt



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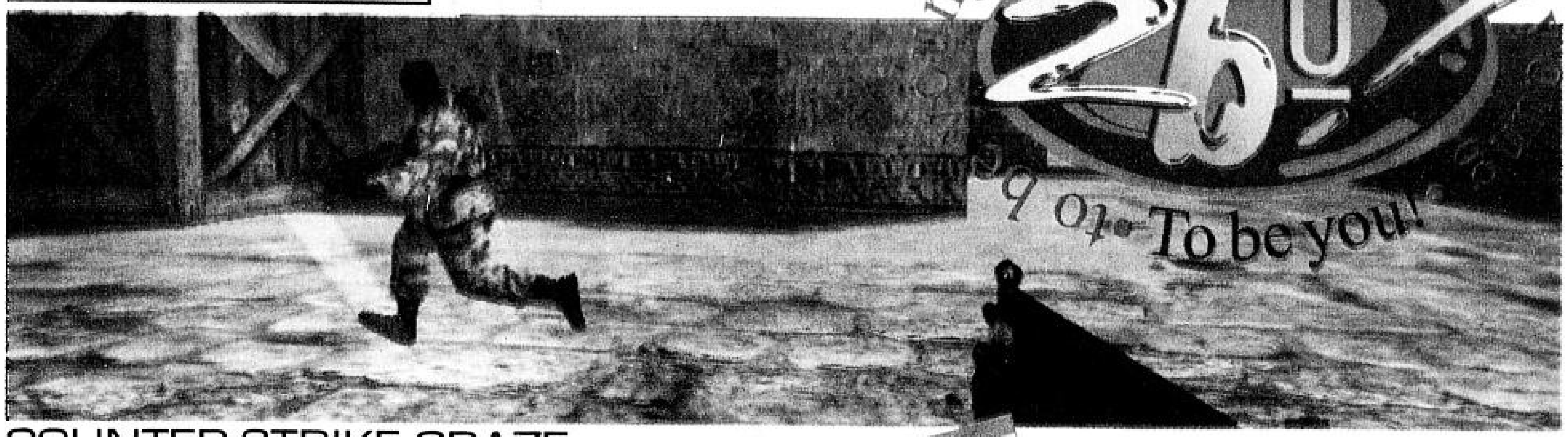

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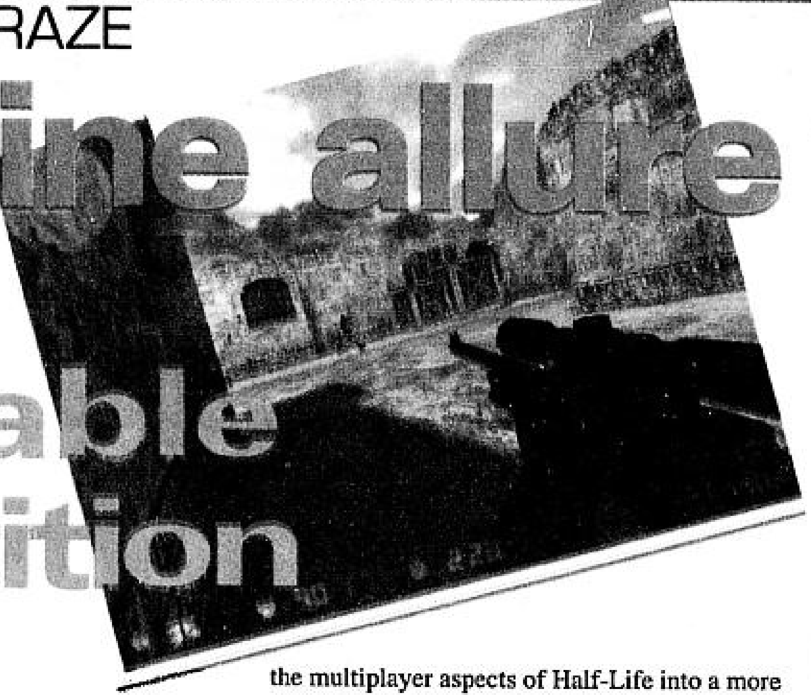
COUNTER-STRIKE CRAZE

Feminine allure finds formidable competition



By Gabriel H. Mercado

IT'S 2:30 a.m., Sunday of a payday weekend. Several cars are still in a mall parking lot. Small groups of well-dressed young people stand on the sidewalk beside gleaming automobiles. Girlish laughter and friendly banter fill the cool night air.

Everything looks normal except for one thing. Where are the men?

No, I have not gone gay. The women have lost their escorts to a phenomenon that has taken control of the minds of many urban Filipinos.

The red-blooded, able-bodied but, as far as the women are concerned, unproductive, young men are indoor playing CS (Counter-Strike).

Counter-Strike from Sierra Studios Inc. in the United States is a modification of an excellent personal computer game, Half-Life. It modified the multiplayer aspects of Half-Life into a more team-oriented game. CS simulates the experience of a trained counter-terrorist or terrorist unit during a raid.

> 'I think it's the rush. I don't get much of that from other games'

The game is such a sensation that two years after its introduction, it continues to be played in every pseudo-Internet café all over the country.

Still, why would young men prefer CS while young women stand outside without escorts on a Saturday night? Have they gone nuts? Or are we making too big a deal of just another fad?

An avid game enthusiast myself, even I am baffled by the game's continued popularity and increasing following. Ignoring the deafening noise of a CS game room, I interviewed three self-confessed addicts of varying ages: Nomad, a 32-year-old advertising executive; Nemesis, a 21-year-old budding Web developer; and Sino,

FEMININE/ p.D2

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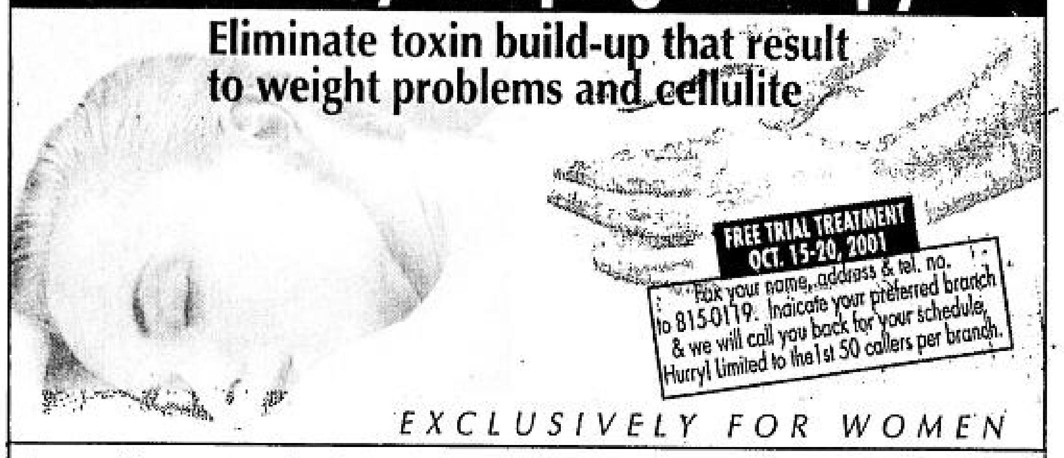

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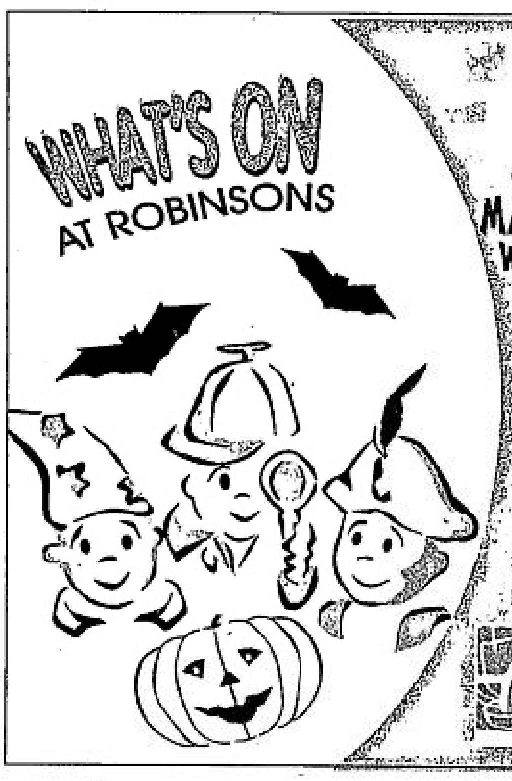

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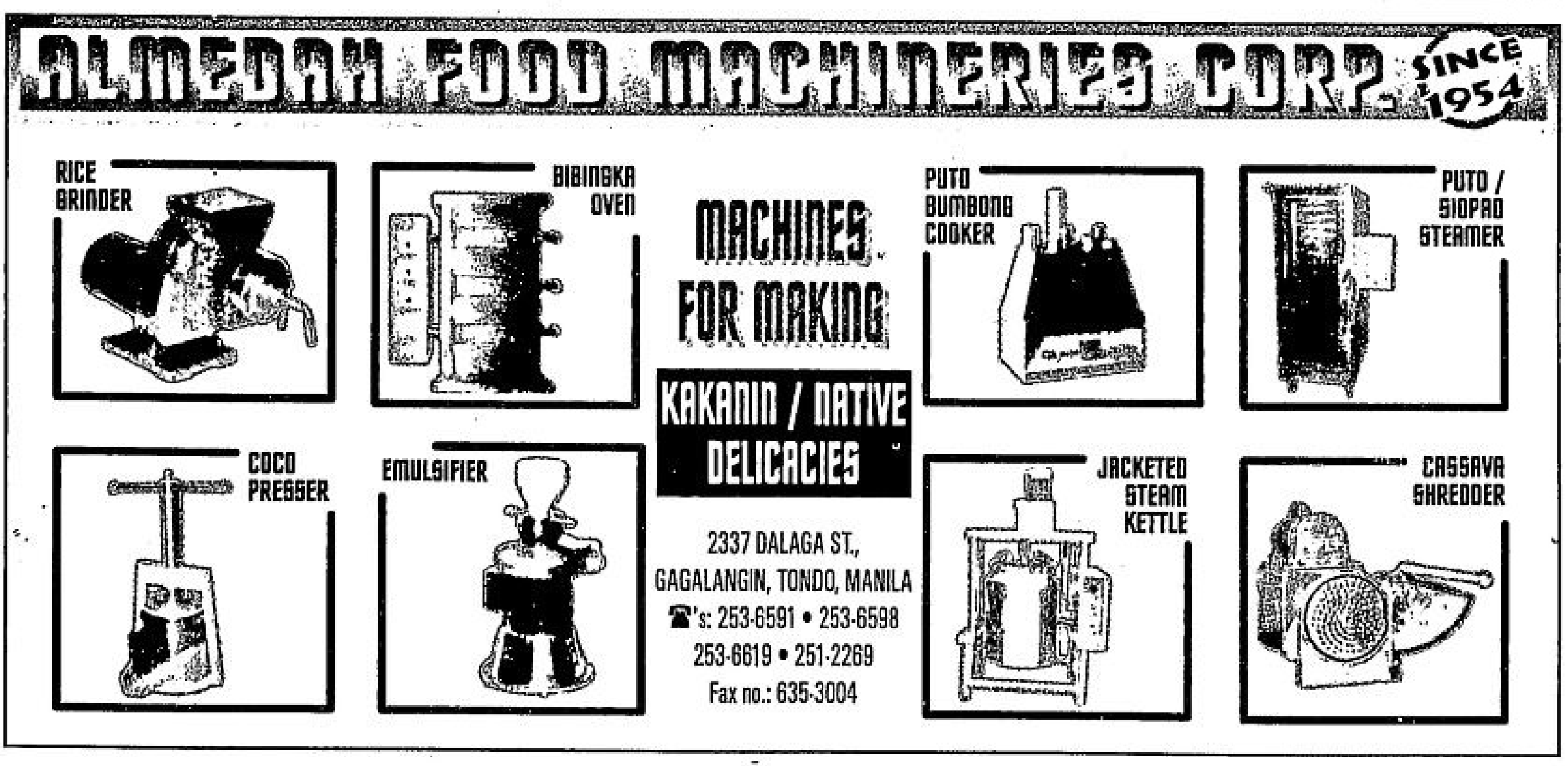

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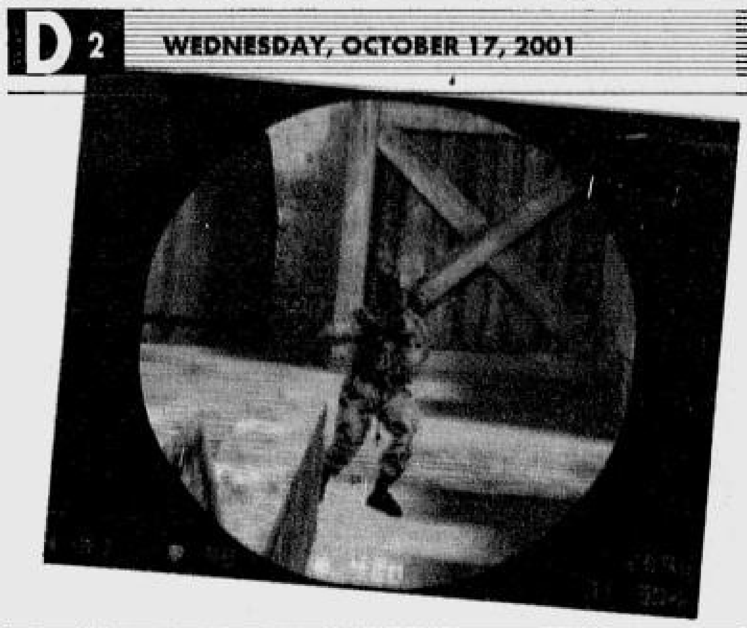


Feminine allure finds formidable competition

(From page D1)

a 17-year-old college freshman. Their names have been changed to protect their identity.

How often do you play?

Nomad: Two to three hours a day. After work at the office and here on weekends.

Nemesis: About the same. At home and here.

Sino: *Ako minsan* five hours a day. *Sa* house, my friend's house and here. Member *na ako.*

How long have you been playing?

Nomad: Oh, for a year already.

Nemesis: Six months.

Sino: Eight months. I play with my Dad. I (also) play other games.

Is it just a fad? When will you stop playing?

Nomad: I think so. It's the latest craze but another one will come along soon.

Nemesis: *Oo. Malalaos din 'yan* soon. Then *iba naman.*

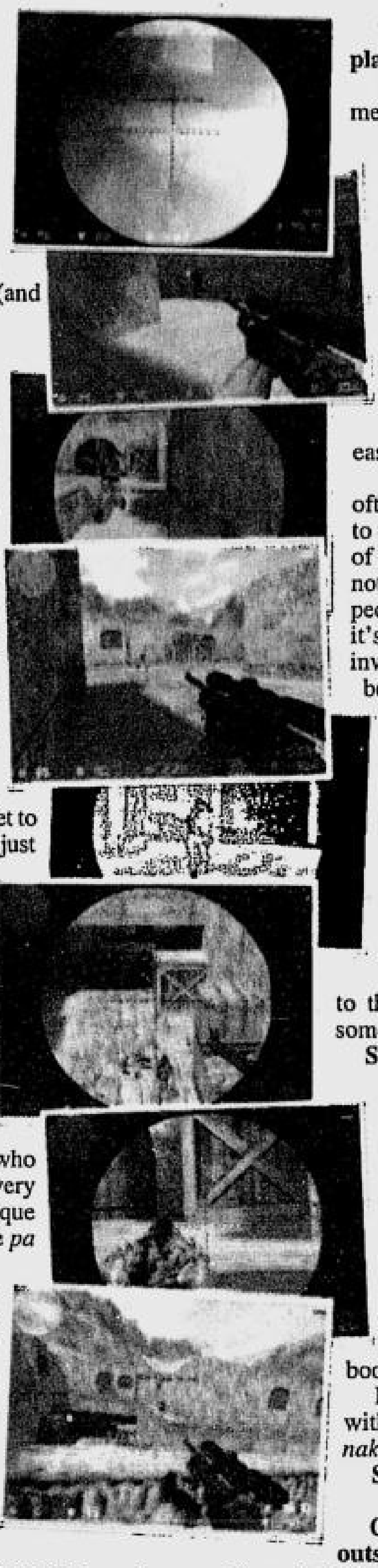
Sino: Not for a long time. It's (a) very good game. People have been playing for so long (and yet) it's still popular.

Why is it such a hit?

Nomad: I've been thinking about that. I think it's because of the sheer number of options, every game is never the same. *Wala namang* storyline. It's just out and out action.

Nemesis: Agree. Every time you play, the results are different. It's also fast-paced and exciting. Challenging. I get really pumped up especially when I play against other good players. I think it's the rush. I don't get much of that from other games.

Sino: Super-graphics. *Daming* options. And also you get to play with other people and not just the PC. I like playing with my friends and we talk about our games in school. We like to tease each other about who sucks and who rules.



What is the reaction of your wife/girlfriend/mother?

Nomad: It's okay with my wife. I explain to her it's better than other vices.

Nemesis: *Maraming* girls who are also into it, and they're very good. There's this girl in Parañaque who beat us all once. She's cute *pa* (laughs).

Sino: My mom knows I play but not how much. My sister also plays but not much. My dad plays with me sometimes. *Siguro* if she (mom) knows (how much I play), I'll be grounded.

Is it a vice?

Nomad: If you abuse it, yes.

Nemesis: *Oo. Pero* for me I think it's a vice already. I think I play too much.

Sino: I don't know yet. Maybe because I don't have a vice to compare it to. I don't smoke or drink. I just play games.

What do you say to people who say that (it's a vice)? Also that it's too violent?

Nomad: I think I know what I'm doing. I tell them that.

Nemesis: I can stop *naman* whenever. I think it's under control—I hope (laughs). There are other games that are far more violent.

Sino: It's not a big deal *naman e.* It's just a game. I tell my mom to relax.

What good can come from playing CS?

Nomad: Actually it just helps me pass the time. To relax and unwind.

Nemesis: I've decided I want to learn more about programming. I'd like to learn more about computers and networking. I'm (also) interested in designing websites and making it easy to use interfaces, like the one in CS. It's so easy to use and learn, intuitive. It's complicated, *pero* the controls are easy to remember and use.

Sino: My friends and I play often so (it) gives us something to do. *Masaya* and we have a lot of fun. Harmless fun *naman.* It's not like we want to go and shoot people in real life (laughter). *Kasi* it's a game *na* a lot of skill is involved. It's not like we play because we're violent.

Nemesis: We just want to test our skills against each other (Everyone agrees).

What bad can come from playing CS?

Nomad: If you abuse it. Anything abused is bad.

Nemesis: Sometimes when I think of it, it makes me sick *na.* I think I'm getting to the point where I need to do something else.

Sino: It's expensive. I spend most of my allowance here. *Wala na akong pambili ng* clothes. I have a friend who steals from his mom to play CS. That's *sobra na.*

If you weren't playing CS, what would you be doing?

Nomad: Tossing and turning in bed. I'm a night-owl. I'll be trying to read a book to sleep.

Nemesis: Sleeping. *Siguro* out with my friends drinking. *Mas nakakasawa 'yun* actually.

Sino: Sleeping *lang.* Corny '*no*?

Guys, did you notice the girls outside?

Nomad: No, but if I don't go home soon one of them would be my wife. (laughs)

Nemesis: No. (pause) What's wrong with me? (everyone laughs)

Sino: (goes out to look and comes back smiling). *Wala namang ka*-age *ko e.*

E-mail the author at gary@exchange.ph.

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The text junkie's diaries

BY BELINDA CORTEZ

I WILL not be surprised if my Mom decides to wring my neck when she finds out how much I have spent on prepaid cellular phone cards the past months. I have been so keypad-happy that most of my allowance has gone straight to the prepaid card vendor near the school.

I have to quit. Or maybe not quit, but just exercise major control. One day, I woke up determined to break my habit. I am going to stop texting for a week, if only to prove to myself that I am in charge. And my cell phone does not have control over me.

Hah!

Monday

Woke up early and did the first thing I usually do every morning—reached for my phone and replied to waiting messages. I almost forgot my resolution. I cringed as I deleted the new messages without replying. Good thing they were mostly morning greetings, nothing urgent.

Off to school. Dawdling at breakfast took up too much time. I'm going to be late. Better text my classmate to check if the professor is there. But, uh oh. I can't. I started to bite my thumb.

School was terribly busy. I did not have time to think about texting. I am empowered. I am strong. I can survive without text.

Tuesday

Up really early and, this time, I did not bother to check my messages. I did not feel strong enough to fight the urge to text so early in the morning. Maybe later.

No significant messages, only people wondering why I have been out of touch. How can I assure them I'm still alive? Hmmm. Missed calls! That's not cheating, is it?

That night, I faced a big test. A guy I had a crush on for ages (let's call him Mico) texted me. Nothing special really, just a cutesy picture message but replying might lead to a text marathon, which could eventually lead to... who knows, right? Should I text? Should I not? Sigh. Yes. I have principles. I'll text him next week, maybe. If I still know how.

Wednesday

Brilliant idea. Today, I will not bring my cell phone to school. Keep temptation as far away from me as possible. Smokers have nicotine patches. What do texters have? Maybe I should buy that mini Etch-a-Sketch I saw in the mall. Would be good to have something to keep my fingers busy.

Not having my phone in my pocket made me feel so incomplete. I could not believe I had grown so attached to it. I am such a superficial idiot. I spent 18 years of my life without it—and now, this? Very strange.

When I got home, I dashed to my room to grab my phone. One little text probably wouldn't hurt, right? Maybe. Maybe not. Okay. I won't text. I won't. I think I better go online.

Would using the SMS (short message service) online be cheating? I don't think so. Haha! Looks like I'll be spending a lot of time in front of the PC (personal computer).

Thursday

I do not feel good about what I did yesterday. Maybe that was cheating. I am such an addict. Today, I swear, I will not think about texting. I will not touch my phone. Well, okay, I have to answer phone calls. But I won't text. I won't, online or otherwise.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I did it. I hardly touched my phone the whole day. My friends have been giving me the cold shoulder, though. I've tried explaining my mission, but I was greeted with grimaces and knitted brows. Oh well. Just three more days.

Friday

School was boring. I was doodling in my notebook instead of texting like I did before. How ancient is that?

Tonight, my friends and I are going to Glorietta. I have a major reason to text. Mom likes it when I keep her posted about my whereabouts. I vow not to text anyone but my Mom.

I did it. No matter how often my thumb itched, I fought the urge. I succeeded. There is hope for me after all.

Saturday

I no longer reach for my phone when I wake up. I focus on more substantial things like brushing my teeth and taking a bath.

Mom and I went shopping. My friends were texting the whole time and I just ignored them. I'll make it up to them in two days.

Annie suddenly texted. Major problems with her jerk of a boyfriend. No excuses this time. No principle would be worth more than my friends. I replied. Major text marathon.

Okay, so I gave in to temptation. I lost. I did not make it. But five days without text wasn't really bad. And I did make a friend feel better.

People can be addicting, too

BY P. VIOLA

ADDICTION is such a filthy word. A word that fills our minds with pictures of vacant looks and frantic bodies in a badly lit room with smoke hanging in the air like dirty laundry. No, addictions are not confined to drugs, sex and alcohol. There is so much more to this world of incessant desire than your regular taboos and lousy cinematography. I would go so far as saying we all have addictions—some don't know it while many deny it.

I would like to share my views on one kind of addiction which I must warn you, could be difficult to detect. Let's call it people addiction, for lack of a better term. Don't mistake it to the need of having a constant audience. What I mean is being so powerfully drawn to one person at a time. It is comparable to serial monogamy, but worse.

Vicious cycle

You may recognize the symptoms and the vicious cycle. Let's begin our discussion with our first case study: Candace, a product of years of exclusive girl schooling. Her high school friends enroll in other universities, and she finds herself facing the prospect of coeducation alone—until Krissy comes along.

The two happen to sit together during the college orientation. Candace notices that Krissy has the same ring tone on her cell ("Pop" of N' Sync). She just has to say that N' Sync is arguably the best band of all. Krissy more than agrees and after more small talk, Candace discovers they have the same zodiac sign! She gets a little taste of the rush.

Convenience plays the role of the pusher—availability of the drug is vital to nurturing the addiction. Luck has it they have almost identical schedules. So Candace gets more sampling. Each time the dose is increased, from sharing classes to secrets to their most treasured outfits. It's like a straight to video film—"Candace and Krissy Takes on College." Candace is hooked.

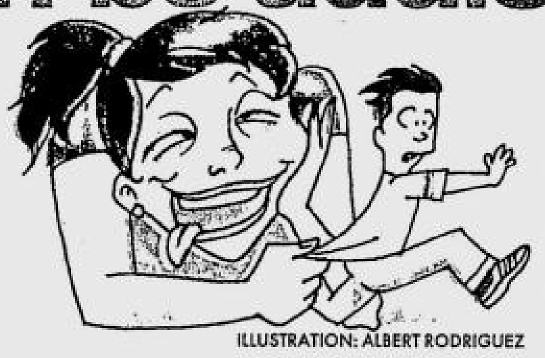


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Some call their human drug as best friend, others boyfriend or girlfriend, and there are a few who call them as soul mate.

Our next case is Sam, a literature student. Sam and Billy (a business major with a passion for movies) have been a couple for five months. After a mind-blowing discussion of "Pride and Prejudice" and its parallelism with "Bridget Jones's Diary" on their first date and a series of marathon texting, Sam is officially addicted to Billy. They are inseparable, spending every waking minute together. This routine continues until the dreaded crash.

Like any other addiction, attachment to someone is fickle and unstable. When the body has become accustomed to one brand of human drug, the high isn't as good as before so the addict looks somewhere else to get his/her fix—a new human drug. So Sam feels restless, she wonders why birds no longer appear every time Billy is near. Or why stars don't fall down from the sky every time he walks by. It may sound naive and nuts to you but hey, since when have junkies been in touch with reality?

Change

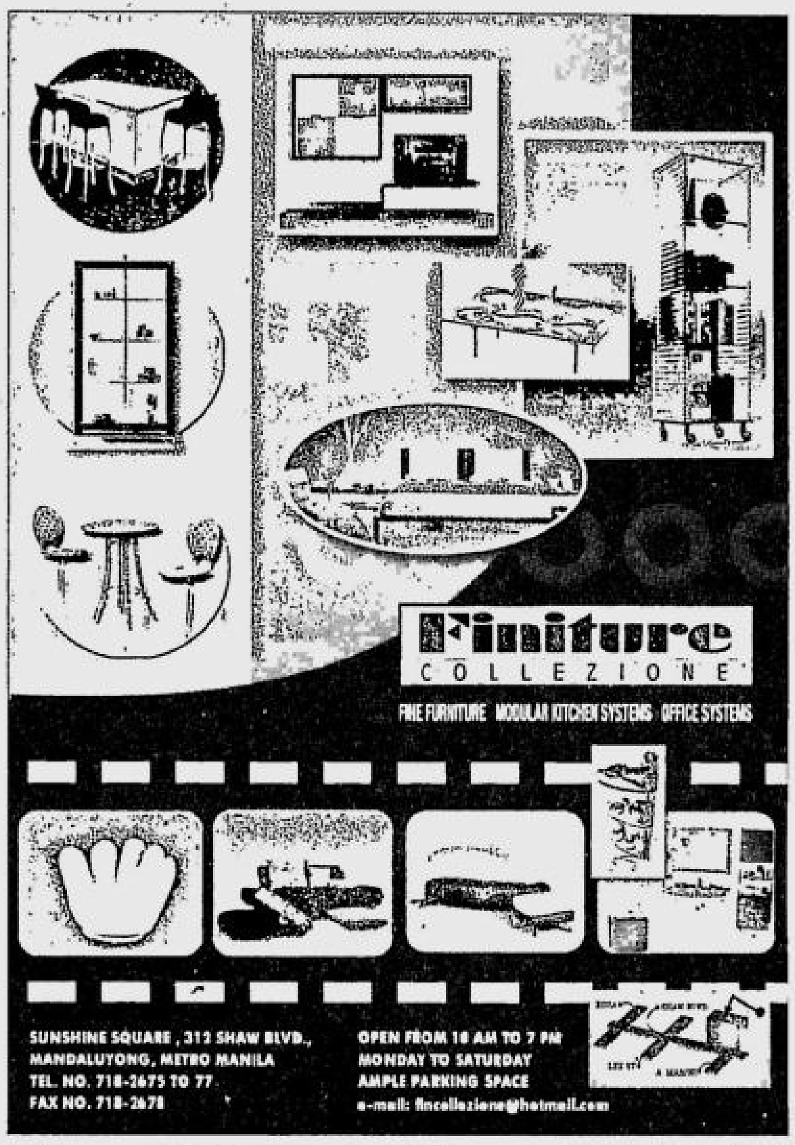
Candace experiences a change of heart about N' Sync. Boy bands are for kids. She begins hanging out with her new org mates a batch higher and more sophisticated. Candace realizes she has outgrown Krissy. It's time to move on—hey, even the Spice Girls disbanded.

Here comes the breakup. This is the tricky part. After a certain period of Billy-drug deprivation, withdrawal sets in. All of a sudden Sam gets Billy cravings, abrupt attacks of missing and melancholy. This could go two ways—if the Billy-drug is still accessible, Sam can satisfy her hankerings and prolong the process. If Billy chooses to make himself scarce, then Sam will just have to suffer the whole withdrawal process complete with phantom pains and sleepless nights. The withdrawal period for every addict differs. It actually depends on how soon the discovery of a new human drug turns up.

Another true sign of a junkie is denial. An addict can think of hundreds of explanations and justifications for his/her behavior. Excuses vary from environmental to psychological to biological. In fact, an article about genes and DNA on CNN.com said, "As for addressing addictions, medical research suggests that about 50 percent of the risk is genetic." "That would make addiction more inheritable than diseases we commonly think of as genetic, such as adult onset diabetes or common hypertension," said Eric Nestler, the head of the department of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. This is one more thing we can blame on our parents.

Whatever triggers people addiction, whether a manifestation of an inherited gene or the tugging of an erratic heart, recovery from it requires the realization that one is a junkie.

Why is people addiction rampant in today's society? Short attention span and the constant search for excitement makes us vulnerable to it. We try to live the fairy-tale romances and relationships we see in the movies, not realizing that the story does not just end with a happily-ever-after. We tend to forget that in every relationship, there are both highs and lows. That the test of true friendship and love is climbing the peak, going down a valley, walking a plateau with your that special person beside you. Why settle for temporary solutions when you can have something you can keep forever?



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Call off the troops— a rebellion it is not

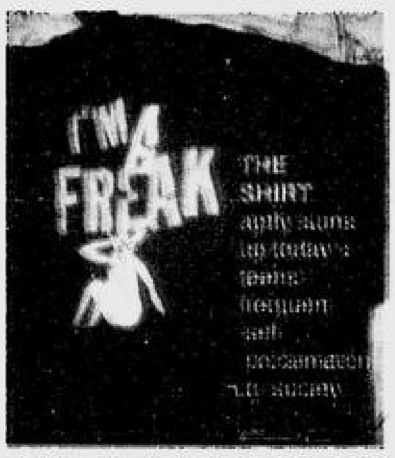
BY CHERYL TIU
2bU! Correspondent

EVEN if Grandma had a crystal ball and was able to see the future, she probably would not have guessed how today's youth would turn out. They certainly do not look like the young people of her time—muddy blotches on their faces, rings on their eyebrows and tongues, skin that has become a canvas for graffiti, hair that looked like it was set on fire, fishermen's nets in their wardrobes and dog collars.

Why have today's kids morphed into beasts that have to be put on leash?

Tattoos and body piercing, which used to be associated only with rock stars, have become so commonplace among the youth that the girl next to you in your history class could actually have had her belly pierced or her back tattooed with a Celtic cross. Gone were the days when tattoos and piercing identified hardcore drug addicts with bad friends, bad lives and no future. These days, even straight-A students and clean-cut guys might have tattoos and piercing somewhere, although that does not necessarily mean they also have human skulls hanging on their doorknobs.

The same can be said for hair dyes. Teens are going crazy transforming their blacks and browns into flaming reds, bodacious blues and flamingo pinks, to the horror of parents and grandparents. Add to this black eye shadow, black lipstick, black nail polish, dog collars, fishnet tops and stockings that make adults think there is going to be a reenactment of George Romero's "The Night of the Living Dead."



The boys seemed to have been lulled into this quirky game of dress-up, defying all rules of society. Ah, what horrible, horrible monsters the kids have become!

For beauty's sake

And yet rebellion is way down on the agenda of these wild little monsters. The outrageous looks, although almost causing heart attacks among a number of parents, are not really acts of defiance of elders (except for some rare cases maybe) but primarily ways of self-expression.

MEN may be from Mars and women from Venus, but makeup is something no longer foreign to both.

Getting their noses or chins pierced are done for aesthetic reasons. Adornment is no longer limited to the ears. Tattoos are often picturesque translations of the philosophies and passions or rendering of people they love most. The colors they put on their eyes and lips may shock their elders, but they represent beauty to them.

The seemingly preposterous things that teenagers do to themselves, they do *for* themselves. They have just become a little more creative than the people of the past. Although they did not mean to ignore the norms of society, since society's standards were a bit too rigid, the youthful acts of self-assertion appeared defiant.

Today's youth have become more open and expressive about how they feel. They do not have to speak or write to deliver their message. What they have to say is often there for everyone to see. The message can be beautiful and symbolic to some and offensive to others. But what today's young are doing are definitely not an attempt at a revolution. They are not meant to put the world in an emotional uproar, as elders seem to think. At least, not deliberately.

STAMPED behind... Tattoos aren't always explicitly on display for the world to see.

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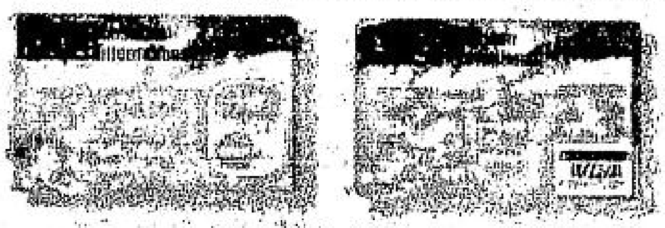

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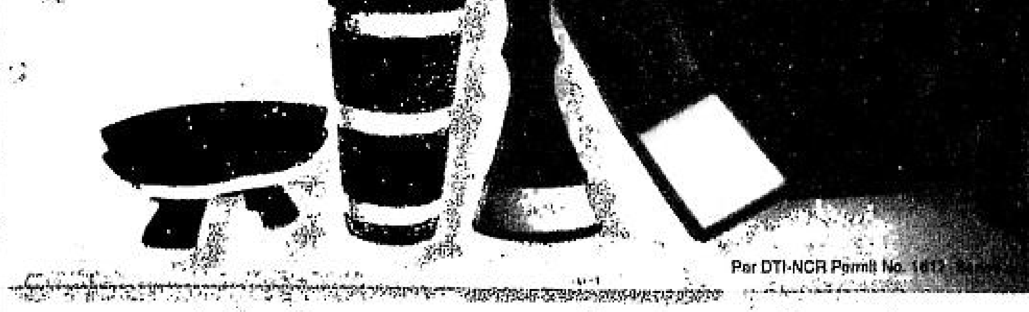

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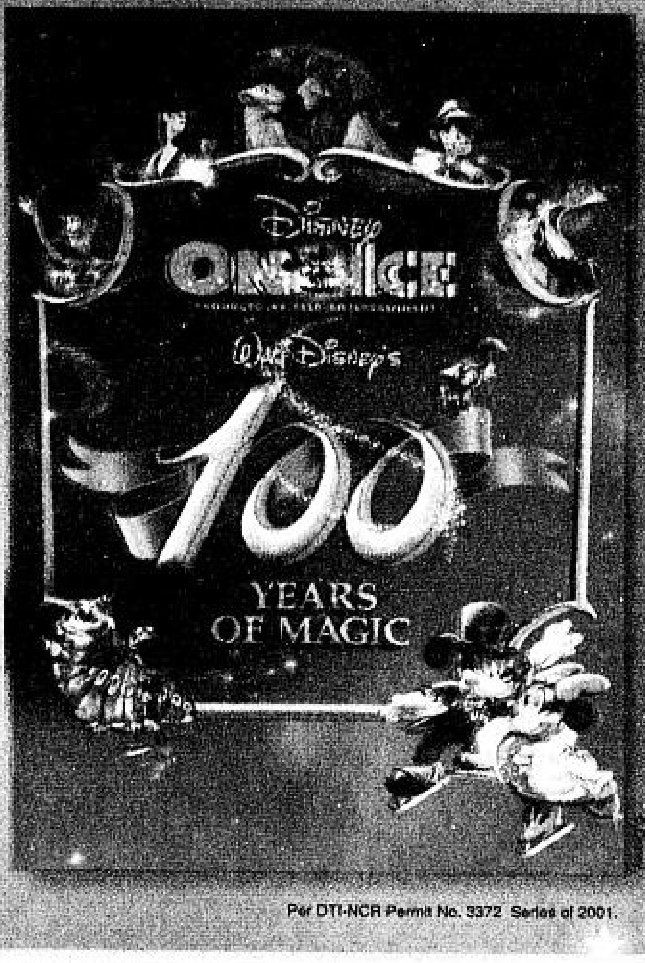
Characters from Toy Story and Bug's Life ©Disney/Pixar



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3372 Series of 2001.

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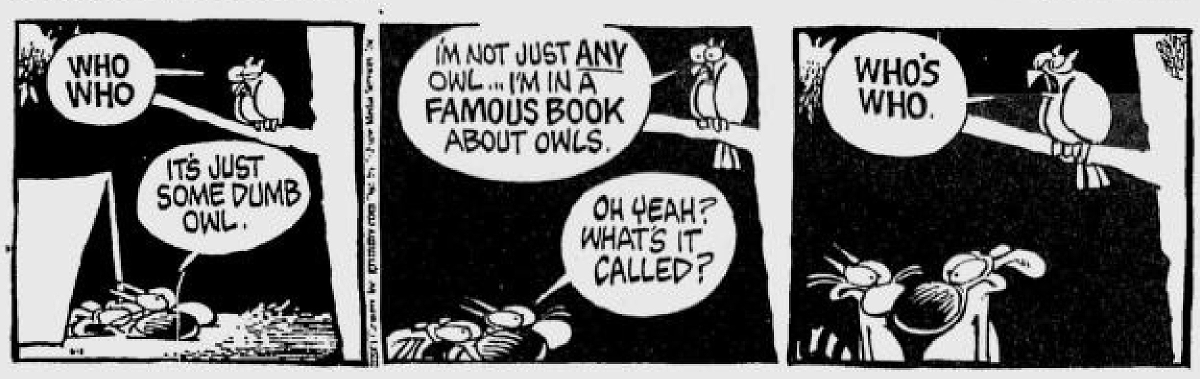
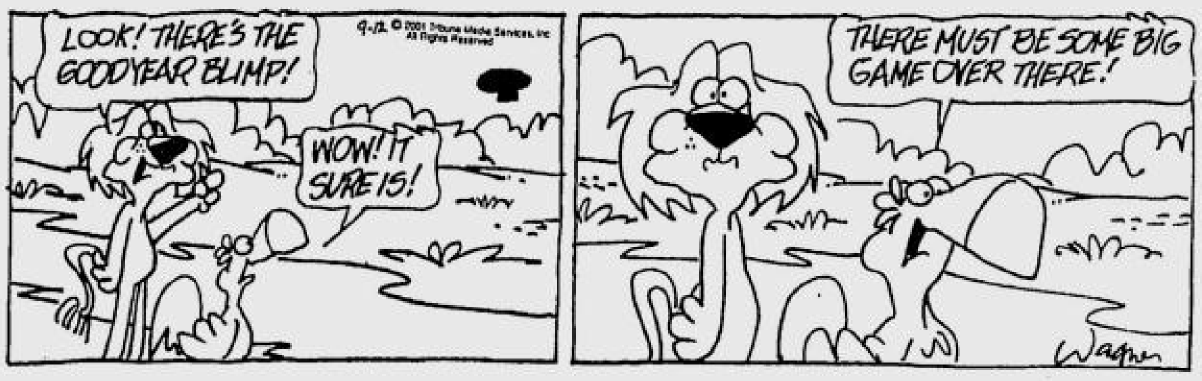
Credit Cards

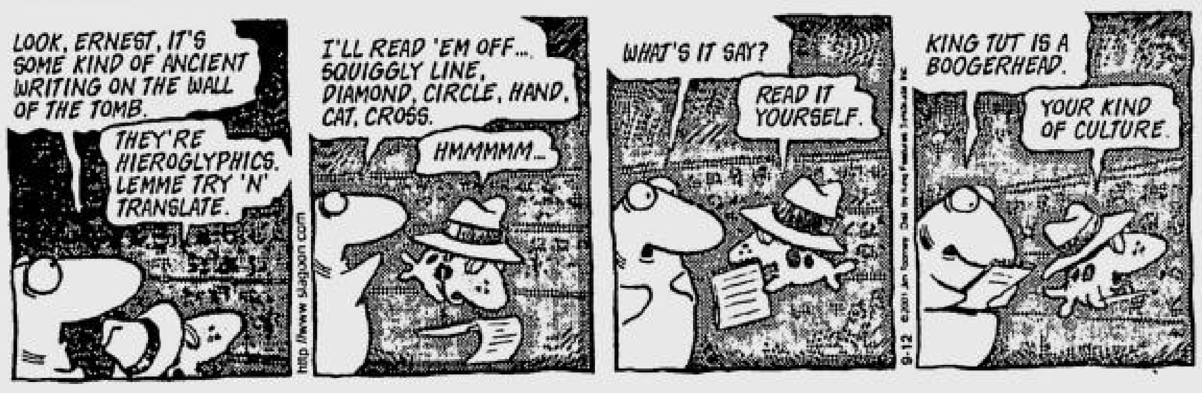
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


WHO WHO
IT'S JUST SOME DUMB OWL.
I'M NOT JUST ANY OWL... I'M IN A FAMOUS BOOK ABOUT OWLS.
OH YEAH? WHAT'S IT CALLED?
WHO'S WHO.

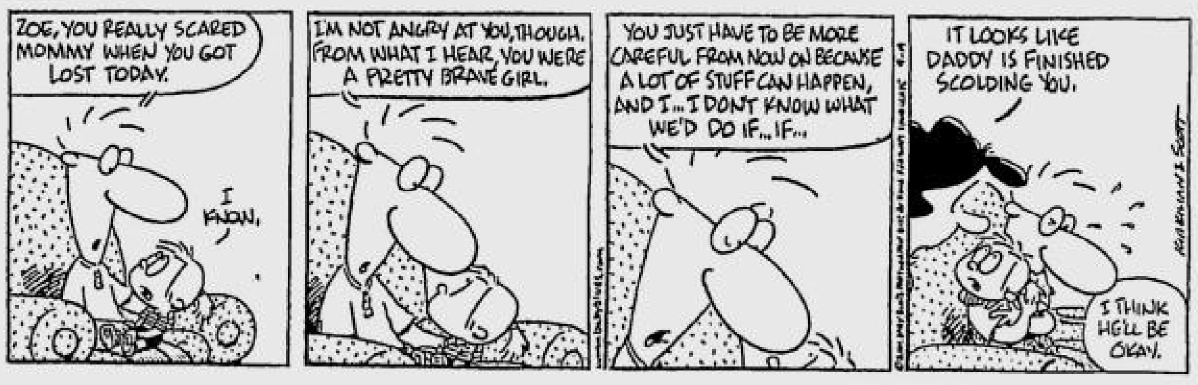
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


LOOK! THERE'S THE GOODYEAR BLIMP!
WOW! IT SURE IS!
9-12 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
THERE MUST BE SOME BIG GAME OVER THERE!
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


LOOK, ERNEST, IT'S SOME KIND OF ANCIENT WRITING ON THE WALL OF THE TOMB.
THEY'RE HIEROGLYPHICS. LEMME TRY 'N' TRANSLATE.
http://www.slagoon.com
I'LL READ 'EM OFF... SQUIGGLY LINE, DIAMOND, CIRCLE, HAND, CAT, CROSS.
HMMMMM...
WHAT'S IT SAY?
READ IT YOURSELF.
9-12
KING TUT IS A BOOGERHEAD.
YOUR KIND OF CULTURE.

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, YOU REALLY SCARED MOMMY WHEN YOU GOT LOST TODAY.
I KNOW.
I'M NOT ANGRY AT YOU, THOUGH. FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU WERE A PRETTY BRAVE GIRL.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON BECAUSE A LOT OF STUFF CAN HAPPEN, AND I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO IF... IF...
IT LOOKS LIKE DADDY IS FINISHED SCOLDING YOU.
I THINK HE'LL BE OKAY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Arthur Miller, George Wendt, Eminem, Michael McKean, Margot Kidder
Happy Birthday: Much can be accomplished this year if you reflect and on your future direction. You can gain ground by being thoughtful and respectful of those you deal with on a daily basis. Your opinions are changing, and this added awareness should lead you in the right direction. Your numbers: 1, 4, 18, 22, 29, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): With all that nervous energy today, you won't know whether to laugh or cry. You need an outlet. Join a group offering both creative and physical activity, and you'll be right back on track.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can accomplish just as much over the phone today. Being indiscreet about your personal life could damage your reputation. Listen to others for an enlightening discovery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Misunderstandings that have destabilized some relationships can be cleared up if you talk to each individual openly. For a wonderful experience and new interests, plan a short trip.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone at home may try to push you around and take advantage. Stand up for yourself before you're too upset to be rational. State your case clearly and objectively.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expect problems at work. You'll be in an awkward position if someone asks you to withhold information. Be diplomatic in handling this situation, and don't take the fall for someone else's wrongdoing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your energy level is high, and fitness activities will have good results. Don't hesitate if a good investment opportunity unfolds. You can make money if you do your homework.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Deception is probable, especially if you're trapped in a triangle or one-sided infatuation. Don't allow your imagination to lead you in the wrong direction. If you're unsure, don't do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go to the root of any problem. Misunderstandings could occur if you have been vague or too shy. Prepare to set things straight. Don't let anyone take advantage of your talent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think for yourself in financial matters. Don't follow a friend into a fast-cash scheme, or your friendship may dissolve as a result. It's wise to pass on this one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a break. Travel will not be your safest bet. Don't believe what a fast-talking associate tells you.

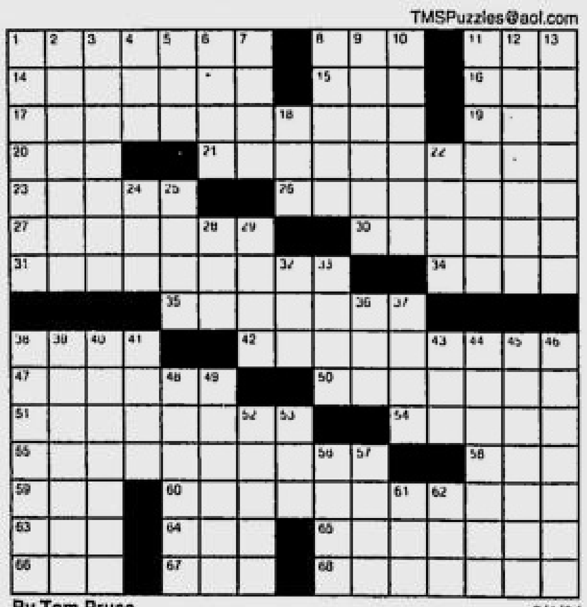
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time sorting through the information you've been collecting. Travel will lead to powerful new pastimes and relationships. Go after your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't hesitate to follow through on plans to change or renovate your residence. Real-estate investments will be financially beneficial. The changes you initiate will lift your spirits.

Birthday Baby: Your creative edge will enable you to view things uniquely. You are dashing, debonair and completely charming. You are dedicated and devoted to your beliefs and family.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
9/1/01

ACROSS
1 Antagonistic
8 Kaline and Rosen
11 Restraint of tirade?
14 Alarm clock, e.g.
15 Future louse
16 Karel Capek's sci-fi play
17 "You Know Me, Al" author
19 Turkish title
20 Genetic code letters
21 Noms de plume
23 Bottom line
26 U-shaped parts of fasteners
27 Musical sweet potato
30 Made over
31 Puts off
34 Tolkien's trees
35 Stone and Hardy
38 Menu item
42 Sang love songs
47 Bivouac
50 Satan
51 Worthy of the greatest honor
54 Segments
55 Placed between
58 Wrong: pref.
59 Old hand, for short
60 Improper treatment
63 Building wing
64 Nautical assent
65 5th-century Germanic leader
66 Bread choice
67 Writer Hentoff
68 Most melancholy

DOWN
1 Car choice
2 River of Venezuela
3 Musical works
4 Harbor boat
5 Small piece of land: abbr.
6 Bound forward
7 Goes wrong
8 Cancel
9 German songs
10 Endeavored with effort
11 Dick ___, aka Robin
12 Bump up
13 Sorghum and millet
18 Winter mo.
22 Brood of pheasants
24 Gallery display
25 Ancient Chinese poet
28 Lon __ of Cambodia
29 Colonial cuckoos
32 Night before a holiday
33 Very dry
36 N.T. book
37 Small piece
38 Come through
39 Without sense
40 Sink by design
41 Rabbit's kin
43 Neighbor of Miss.
44 Squirrellike rodents
45 Lures
46 Final course
48 Ethel of Broadway
49 Melonlike fruit
52 For rent, in London
53 Mind-reader's letters
56 God of love
57 Early word from baby
61 $-due mail
62 Wee bit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	O	T	H	■	T	E	S	T	■	C	O	P	S	E
A	G	R	A	■	C	A	P	O	■	A	P	R	I	L
P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	W	A	Y	T	I	D	E
S	E	A	T	O	■	P	E	E	R	■	S	E	E	N
■	■	S	E	L	A	■	D	R	A	B	■	S	S	A
F	L	O	■	E	L	I	S	■	L	A	S	T	■	■
I	A	N	S	■	E	T	T	A	■	R	A	T	S	O
F	I	N	A	N	C	E	R	I	S	K	R	O	A	D
E	C	O	L	E	■	R	U	D	E	■	I	N	T	O
■	■	O	K	R	A	■	N	E	A	R	■	E	E	R
M	E	N	■	D	I	N	G	■	L	A	R	D	■	■
A	N	T	E	■	M	A	R	S	■	S	O	B	E	R
C	L	A	S	S	S	T	I	C	K	H	O	R	S	E
R	A	I	N	S	■	E	S	A	I	■	T	O	T	S
O	I	L	E	R	■	S	E	N	T	■	S	W	A	T

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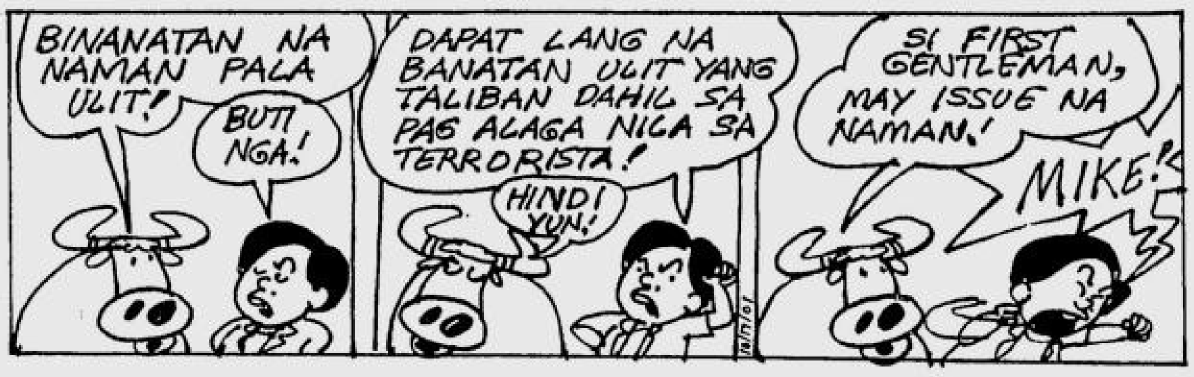
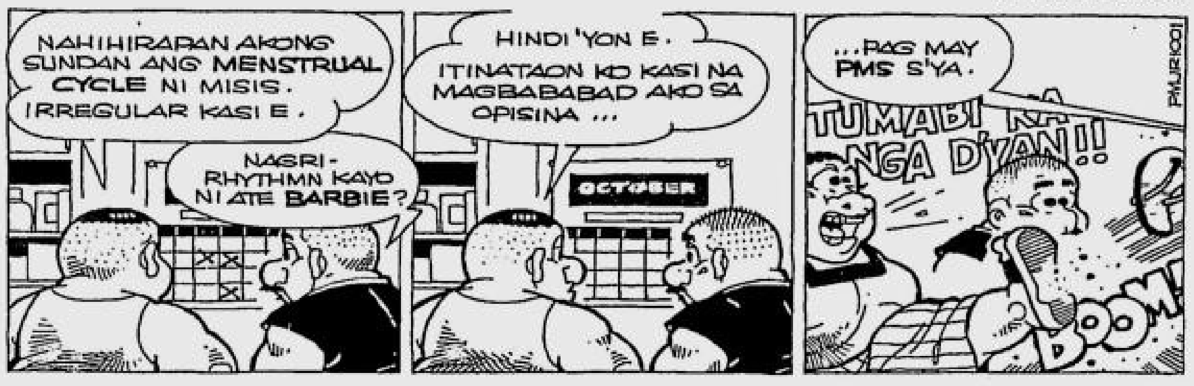
9/1/01

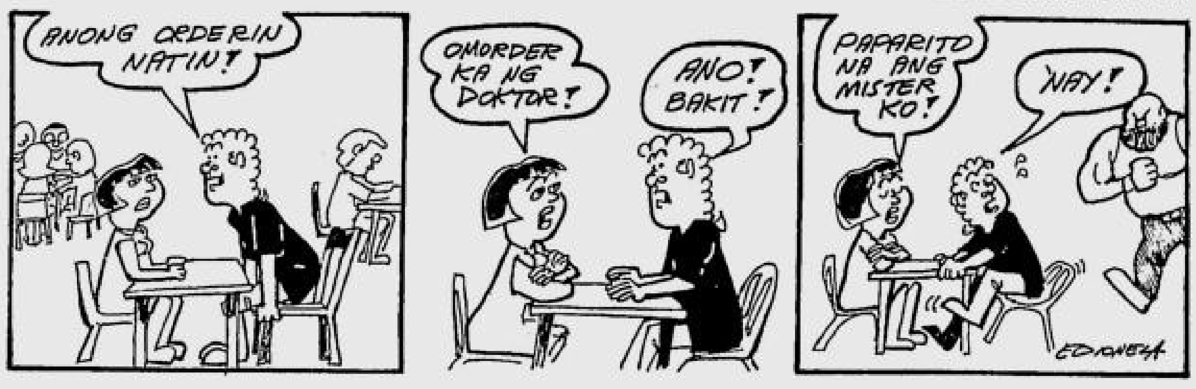
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


BINANATAN NA NAMAN PALA ULIT!
BUTI NGA!
DAPAT LANG NA BANATAN ULIT YANG TALIBAN DAHIL SA PAG ALAGA NILA SA TERRORISTA!
HINDI YUN!
SI FIRST GENTLEMAN, MAY ISSUE NA NAMAN!
MIKE!

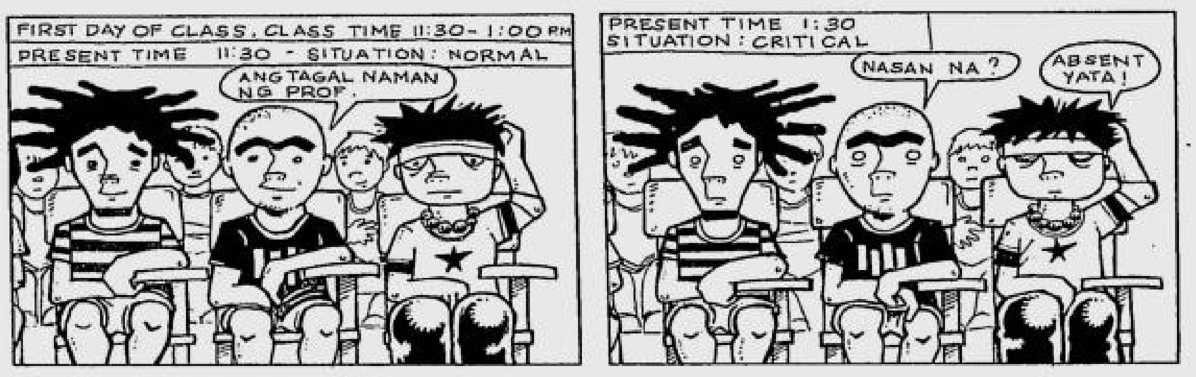
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAHIHIRAPAN AKONG SUNDAN ANG MENSTRUAL CYCLE NI MISIS. IRREGULAR KASI E.
NAGRI-RHYTHMN KAYO NI ATE BARBIE?
HINDI 'YON E. ITINATAON KO KASI NA MAGBABABAD AKO SA OPISINA ...
OCTOBER
...PAG MAY PMS S'YA.
TUMABI KA NGA D'YAN!!
BOOM!

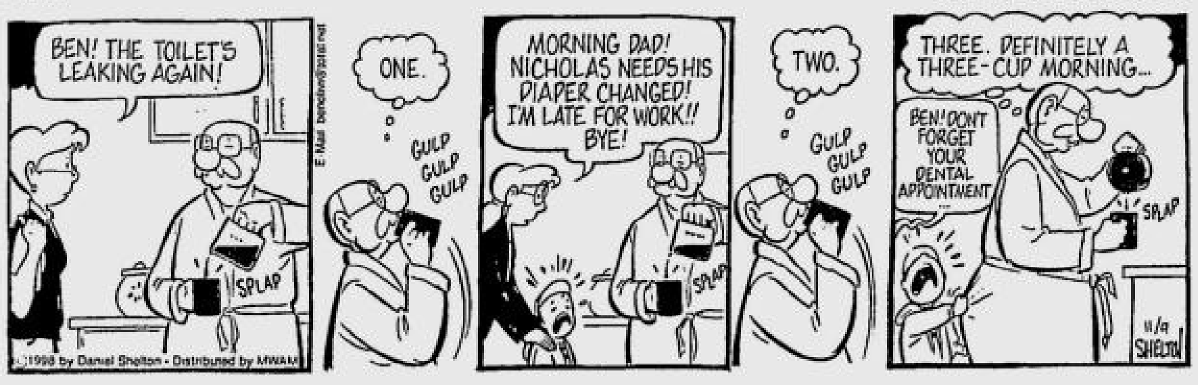
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG ORDERIN NATIN?
OMORDER KA NG DOKTOR!
ANO?! BAKIT?!
PAPARITO NA ANG MISTER KO!
NAY!
EDIONELA

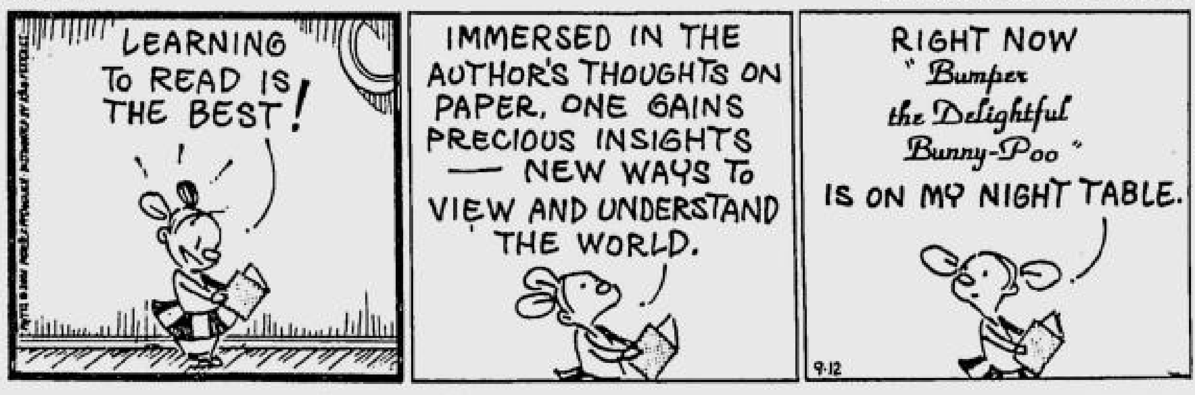
GARAPATA BLOOD
BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


FIRST DAY OF CLASS. CLASS TIME 11:30-1:00 PM
PRESENT TIME 11:30 - SITUATION: NORMAL
ANG TAGAL NAMAN NG PROF.
PRESENT TIME 1:30
SITUATION: CRITICAL
NASAN NA?
ABSENT YATA!

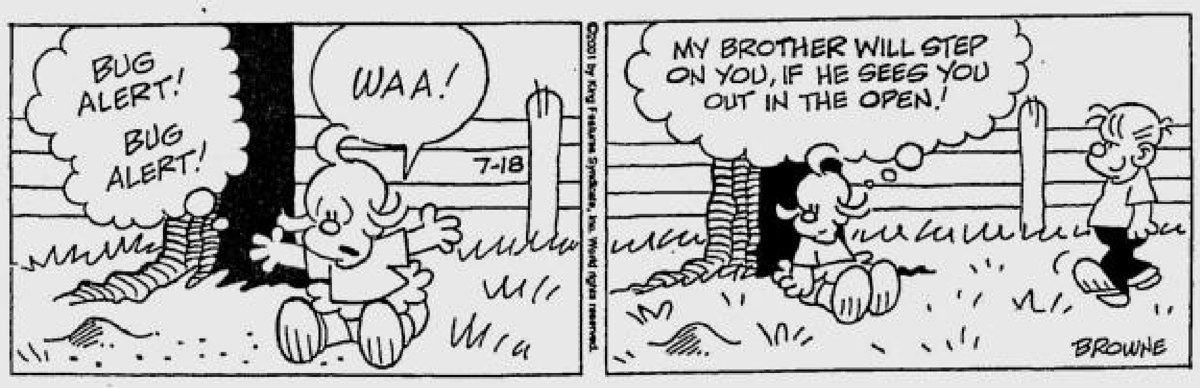
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN! THE TOILET'S LEAKING AGAIN!
SPLAP
ONE.
GULP GULP GULP
MORNING DAD! NICHOLAS NEEDS HIS DIAPER CHANGED! I'M LATE FOR WORK!! BYE!
SPLAP
TWO.
GULP GULP GULP
THREE. DEFINITELY A THREE-CUP MORNING...
BEN! DON'T FORGET YOUR DENTAL APPOINTMENT
SPLAP
11/9 SHELTON
©1998 by Daniel Shelton • Distributed by MWAM

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LEARNING TO READ IS THE BEST!
IMMERSED IN THE AUTHOR'S THOUGHTS ON PAPER, ONE GAINS PRECIOUS INSIGHTS — NEW WAYS TO VIEW AND UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.
RIGHT NOW "Bumper the Delightful Bunny-Poo" IS ON MY NIGHT TABLE.
9-12

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


BUG ALERT! BUG ALERT!
WAA!
7-18
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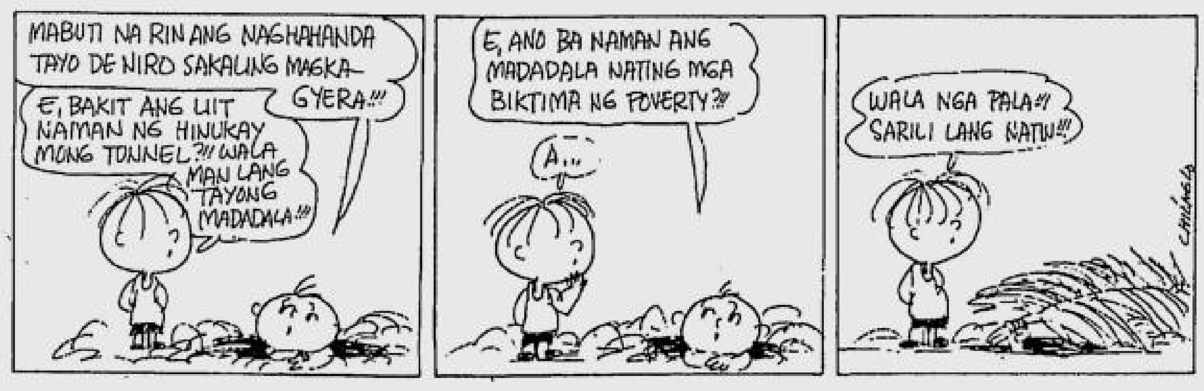
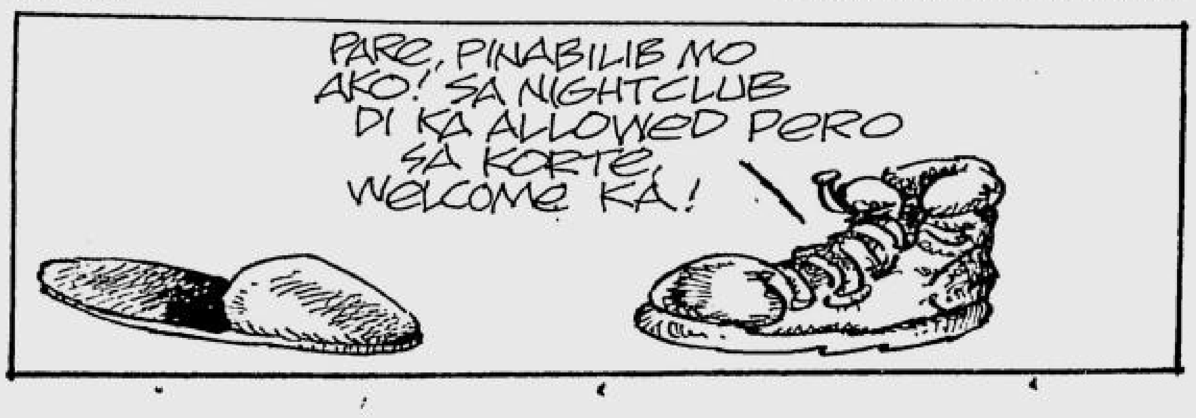
MY BROTHER WILL STEP ON YOU, IF HE SEES YOU OUT IN THE OPEN!
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MABUTI NA RIN ANG NAGHAHANDA TAYO DE NIRO SAKALING MAGKA-GYERA!!!
E, BAKIT ANG LIIT NAMAN NG HINUKAY MONG TONNEL?!! WALA MAN LANG TAYONG MADADALA!!!
E, ANO BA NAMAN ANG MADADALA NATING MGA BIKTIMA NG POVERTY?!!
A...
WALA NGA PALA!! SARILI LANG NATIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, PINABILIB MO AKO! SA NIGHTCLUB DI KA ALLOWED PERO SA KORTE, WELCOME KA!

An artist comes of age in her second album

IT has been almost three years since Natalie Imbruglia sang her way to our hearts with her debut album "Left of the Middle," which spawned the hits "Big Mistake," "Smoke" and the worldwide anthem "Torn." For many artists, the mantra is "Success at any price." Were they lucky enough to have had a debut single, which four years ago came out of nowhere to seduce the entire pop-loving world, they would have hung on to its coattails for dear life. By now, it's likely that we'd have heard too much of them. And each successive offering would have been a paler, more plaintive version of the track that first brought them musical fortune and fame. The magic would have been lost. Happily though, Natalie is not like many artists.

She is an individual, strong in her convictions and determinedly true, both to herself and to others. She could have ridden the wave of success to infinity—tour until there was nowhere left to play, promote every track on the debut album "Left of the Middle" until there was nothing else left to release. But that just isn't her style. She didn't earn the honor of being the most credible music artist ever to cross over from an Aussie soap, simply to squander the title via endless, pointless, empty self-promotion. She cares about her creative output a very great deal more than that. Indeed, Natalie is no dilettante. She's entirely serious about her craft and so she chose to slow down, gave herself time for a normal life, which after all, is where inspiration can be found.

Her second album "White Lilies Island" is the sound of a grownup artist who is secure in her abilities and who has lived and loved enough to have something worthwhile to say. "My hope is that I sound comfortable with myself," says Natalie. "I can't do Britney. I can't just bounce out there and do happy pop. Writing is a much more instinctive thing for me. The people who made me want to do this in the first place—women like Joni Mitchell and Shawn Colvin—draw on what has happened to them in life, turning the specific into the universal. I'm big on that, too."

"White Lilies Island" will be available starting Nov. 5, released by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

Cheering tilt fosters camaraderie and sportsmanship

POVEDA Learning Center

IT started as a mall tour activity and it is now the country's biggest and most prestigious cheering competition. The Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition in its fifth year has 70 participating schools from Manila, 16 from Cebu and 28 from Iloilo and 17 from Davao, making this teen event the country's largest cheering competition venue.

While fostering positive values, creativity and strengthening friendships among Filipino teens, the competition, through the years, has been able to build sportsmanship, camaraderie and team work among participants. Teens are able to represent their schools in a spirit of unity and harmony and fun. Teen power at its most positive form is expressed during the season of Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition preliminaries.

But, as with any sport, there are skills to be learned and endless practices that lead to the winning routine that each cheering team from each school can be proud of. Along with that comes all sorts of gymnastic feats which require a tremendous amount of skill and practice to execute. This year, the people behind the Johnson's Pure Essentials Cheering Competition held the first cheering workshop in order to emphasize safety and train the participating teams on the necessary cheering skills.

Coaches from participating schools attended the workshop by the Cheerleading Association of the Phils. During the workshop, the mechanics of safety were emphasized: from the basic dancing all the way up to tumbling and pyramid building.

In a presentation prepared by Angelita Vibar of CLAP, she mentioned that cheerleading includes dance and gymnastics, and most notably the combination of pyramid building and tumbling. Not only has pyramid building enjoyed a rebirth through its adoption by cheerleaders, but these energetic and exciting performers have also popularized this gymnastic art form.

Participants of the workshop were taught the mechanics of acrobatics such as headstands, bridge stands, handstands and shoulder stands, coupled with tumbling skills such as the cartwheel, handspring and somersault. Lastly, the participants were given the proper techniques in order to safely execute pyramids. These techniques include hand grips, counterbalancing, assembling, holding and disassembling steps to pyramid building.

This year's Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition will also provide padded mats to cushion falls as well as the other standard safety measures such as the required number of spotters per team whose prime responsibility is to make sure that all their team members follow safety procedures at all times.

SULTRY VAMP. Dramatic one-piece dress with exquisite detail and finish for that sultry beauty (P749)

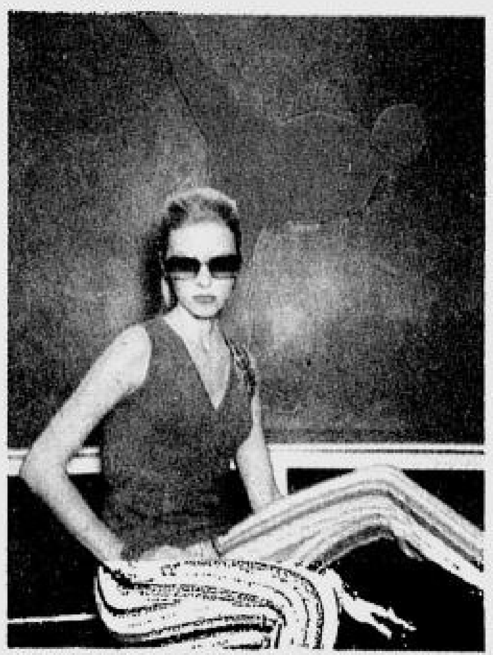
BLACK ENSEMBLES WHITE. White cotton skirt (P799) coordinated with lean and sexy polo (P719) for that spirited woman

Be what you want to be with stylish apparel

BRILLIANT minds in fashion often dictate what's hot and what's not, what's in style and what's out. But times have changed and the roles have been reversed. It's now the sophisticated and creative people who want to express their individuality and set fashion trends. This is exactly what Fish wants to invoke for the new generation of fashion aficionados: to be what they want to be and not be limited by the dictates of the fashion gurus.

Fish offers fashionable apparels from striped pants to blouses and shirts in bright colors and exciting designs to dresses that are fabulous and outlandish. Young ladies would certainly become outrageous because there are absolutely no limits as to where these clothes would take them. Fish does not only embody style. Its line of apparels and accessories are wearable and practical as well. These are necessary elements to make one look good and feel great about what they're wearing.

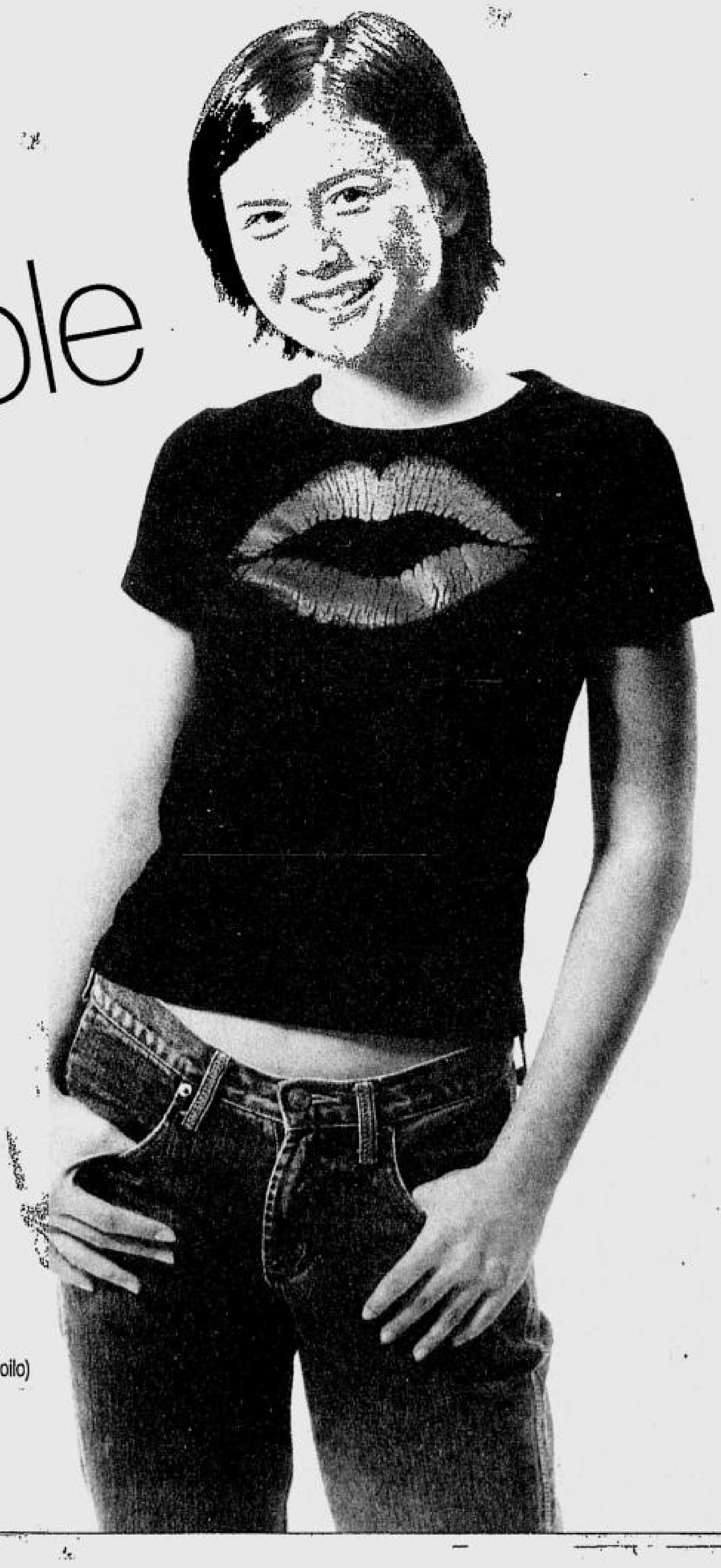
Fish recently held pictorials at Olympians Taekwondo Training Center. Fish easily blended and gave life to an otherwise jaded atmosphere.



SEASON'S FLIRTATION. An evolution of spring pastels and brights on these sleeveless knit top (P449) paired with tailored colorful striped pants (P1,299)

Teen Tees

Strikingly simple



ARTWORK
boutiques

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Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall • Robinson's Place - Bacolod • Tutuban Center Mall • Festival Mall (Filinvest Alabang)
Soon to open: SM City - Davao • Robinson's Place - Metro East (Cainta) • Robinson's Place - Iloilo

A1 (not the steak sauce) on top

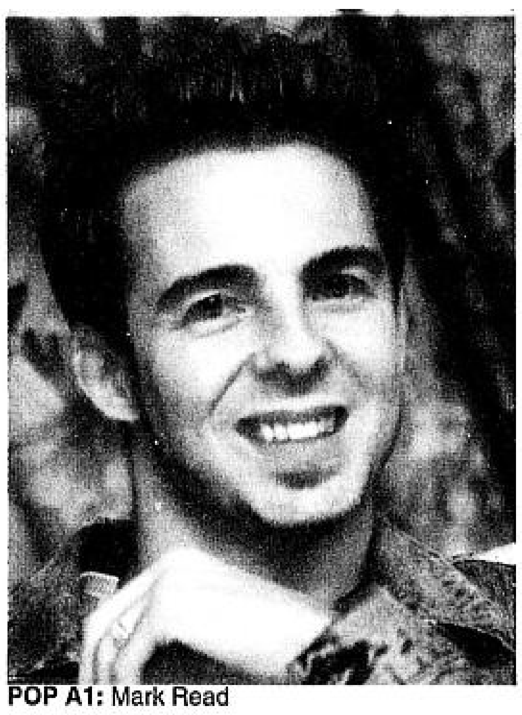
By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

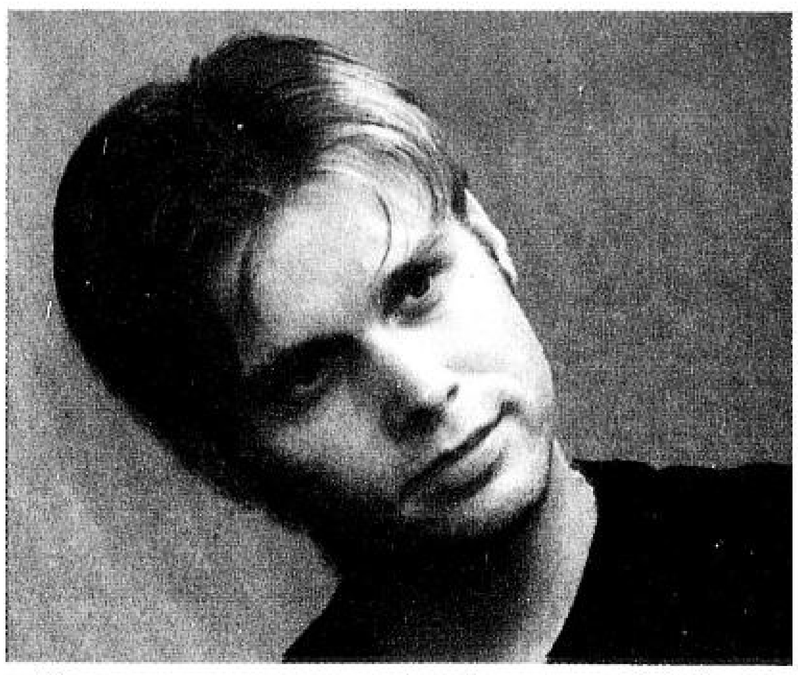
One of UK's top boy bands reveal what's addicting about the Philippines and why Elton John is the ultimate diva

I PACED around the hotel room as I waited for my interview with the boy band from the United Kingdom who does not need any introduction, A1. I worried about screwing up. Outside the window, I saw a rainbow and tried to see if there was a good questionnaire at the end of it.

Finally, the four lads entered the room, shook hands with everybody and warmed up a bit before the 15-minute interview started. I continued to stare at the rainbow as I tried to calm down. I also wanted to give them all the time to warm up.

"Give it to me, baby!" said Mark who pretended he was filming a staff member as he played with my video camera. "Welcome to the fantasy channel" said Ben, who was acting like a pornstar on the couch. Everyone cracked up even as they played along. Paul suddenly pulled down his pants a little and sort of mooned the camera. I guess they were really warmed up by then and I had to start.


POP A1: Mark Read


ROCK A1: Christian Ingebrigsten

What was the most absurd question a journalist asked?

Paul Marazzi : Can't remember, baby!!... (everybody laughed since they were talking about it just seconds before)

Mark Read: The most absurd questions were those to which there was no way to give short answers like how we got together. We don't know how this interests people. Maybe the hardcore fans would want to know but everybody else just wants to listen to our music and know the juicy stuff.

Ben Adams: I think the most absurd ones are stuff like "what's your favorite color?"

M: Outrageous!

B: ...Or favorite flavored crisp

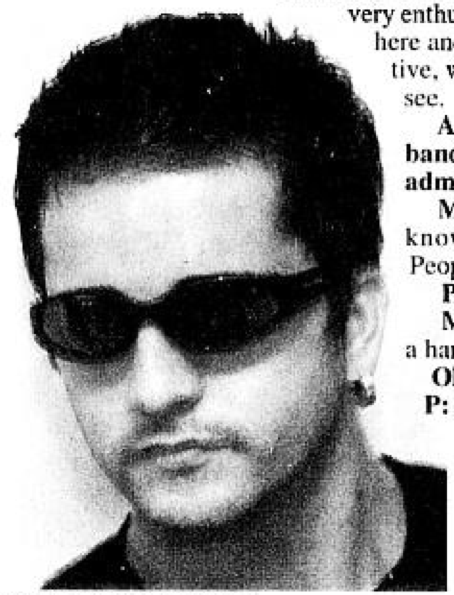
How was Cebu?

M: It was great.

B: Cebu was fantastic. We had a great gig there.

What are your addictions?

M: Music. I'm totally addicted to it. I'm totally addicted to performing because when you go onstage, you get a natural high. And I can do that 24 hours a day. I love it! But other kinds of addictions? I can have a hell of a lot of donuts... jam donuts with loads of sugar on it.


FUNK A1: Paul Marazzi

Christian Ingebrigsten: Norwegian waffles. I love waffles and I make them myself with Norwegian brown cheese on it... beautiful!

B: Fizzy treats, the really sharp sweets. I've been in "rehab" for two weeks now (since he didn't bring some for the tour).

P: No, I've kicked the habit now... I'm not addicted to anything.

What do you find addictive in the Philippines?

M: If I lived here, I would find the girls addictive.

B: Definitely. I think just the people in general 'cause they're all very, very friendly and they're very enthusiastic about what we're doing here and they're really, really supportive, which is really, really lovely to see.

Among the hundreds of boy bands, which group do you guys admire?

M: You know what, I don't know hundreds of boy bands. People always say that...

P: There are!

M: I know, but I can name only a handful.

Ok, how about in the UK?

P: I think Oasis is my, favorite boy band (laughs).

And PULP! Just kidding.

(Mark laughs)

B: I think probably N'Sync is the band... I think it's an odd question if you're in a pop band as we are. I think people have this perception that my favorite group is Boyzone... Mark loves Westlife and Christian loves OTT...

P: Which is not true.

M: What?!

(Everybody cracks up)

B: I think N'Sync is the band that has its finger on the pie...

P: I think they have mastered people's perception of what boy bands do.

C: I think we enjoy other types of music more like, for example, we all like mixed stuff like Tracy Chapman, Elton John, Prince.

M: Queen, The Beatles...

If the Beatles had "A Hard Day's Night" and Radiohead had "Meeting People Is Easy," what would you guys name your documentary or bio pic?

P: I've got it!...If it's not an A1 take, it's a mistake!

B: (laughs) Righttt... (Says it the Dr. Evil way)

M: (faces Paul) If it's not an A1... ugh!

C: That's the slogan.

P: Not steak! Take! (funny because A1 is also known as a steak sauce)

C: Hmmm... what do we call it?... A1: Now and always

P: Ughhh...

What's on your players right now? (CD, MP3, MD, DVD, etc.)

B: Pretty much everything really, DVDs, CDs...

M: Michael Jackson's and Elton John's new album.

C: I listen to Alicia Key's album. It's brilliant! And also I bought the ballad collection of Boyz II Men.

B: I bought Usher's new album, which is great, and Daft Punk.

P: I've got Outkast in the CD player, Marilyn Manson in my mini-disc player and the ultimate fighting championship in my DVD player.

M: You got a DVD player?

P: PlayStation II, man...

M: Ohhh!

What are your ringtones?

M: "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer."

C: I have the Nokia tune.

M: Now that's lame.

B: The band dance, which is the most irritating ring you'll ever hear.

C: Very, very annoying.

B: But I also have "Take on Me" if any of the guys would ring.

P: "Sweet Dreams," Marilyn Manson's version... pretty cool.

So Paul, you're into death metal, shock rock or something?

P: I'm into good music.

Do you like being the eldest in the family or the baby in the group?

B: I like being both because when I go home I can kinda be the person everyone goes to and looks up to. And I think in the group I quite like... I don't really feel I'm the baby, but it's kinda nice because the other guys look after me so well, apart from Christian who bullies me whenever he's pissed.

SOUL A1: Ben Adams

C: I do. I bully him around (grins).

Would you prefer to date someone older or younger?

Ben: I don't think age is an issue. I've been out with girls older than me, I've been out with girls younger than me. I think it's the actual person...

Christian, which of the new pop rock acts in the UK do you like the most?

P: Travis!

C: Umm, I like Travis because as songwriters they have a very strong sense of melody, which I like in every kind of music especially in rock music. But light rock music, which makes it a little bit pop, I guess, pop-rock. I still enjoy Coldplay. I enjoy a lot of other bands but Travis is the most consistent.

You mentioned your dad was a pop star in Norway. Do you have a duet with him?

C: We actually did a duet in a TV show. I wrote a song for my dad's latest album and we sang it together in a TV show in Norway. It did really well. But a record? I don't know. It's really weird to mix the two fan bases—my dad's fans now are mostly his age. But in my dad's concerts lately, he's had a row of at least 20 or 30 teenagers who knew all of the words to his songs. He quite enjoys that so maybe one day I will do one.

Mark, so being a Disney freak...?

M: Oh please don't ask me that (makes a face).

(Ben laughs)

Oh, okay. What can you say about the recent break up of Five?

M: Okay! that's a good one. (The three boys chuckle) To be honest with you, I think it's a shame because they were a pop band that kinda mixed samples from good classic songs. I think it's a shame when a pop band breaks up because it just adds fuel to the fire, (it leads) people to say "Pop bands don't last very long cause Five didn't". But I suppose they did a fair time...about five years? But actually, (in a sarcastic tone)...it's a shame to the world of music. I think music has lost a... classic band! (laughter) Truly classic...

Battle of the Pop Queens... Kylie or Posh Spice Victoria Beckham? (their albums came out at the same time in the UK, both overhyped)

M: I always felt Kylie...

P: Elton John! (laughs)

No! Boy George!

M: Oh nooo, Elton John is the best pop diva...

B: Elton John is the best! (laughter)

C: I like Kylie the best...

M: I think Kylie Minogue without a doubt 'cause she's got the experience. Posh is a lovely lady and it's the first time she ventured out on her own so, you know...give her a little time. But I think Kylie is the deserving winner.

Paul, what was the last concert you've been to?

P: (thinks for a long time) I think it was Outkast. They were brilliant.

Favorite mosh pit experience?

P: I went to see Delinquent Habits. I was at the front and this guy says the most natural thing in the world: "This is a song you can just slam to, just slam with your friend or slam on someone you don't know" and I just got thrown away for like seven minutes (laughs). A friend, who was a girl, pulled me out and saved me. I wasn't enjoying myself. I was just being beaten up.

If you could turn back time, which tour/concert would you love to go to?

P: "Diamonds and Pearls" by Prince—again.

You're the one into pigs, right?

P: No, no my ex-fiancée was into pigs. We broke up and now I hate pigs.

E-mail the author at chris_trent_-thom@lycos.com

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Ateneo national workshop on

THE INSTITUTE of Ignatian Literary Arts and Practices (Iglap) will hold the 2nd Ateneo National Writers Workshop on Oct. 22-27 at the J.Pollock Center of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Twelve writing fellowships have been granted to the following outstanding applicants: Sheila Sison (UPLB), Leo Rey Almero (AdMU), Genaro Gojo Cruz (PNU) and Ana Baluyut (DLSU) for Poetry in Filipino; Catherine Candano (AdMU), Leslie Berbano (UP-Dil), Niccolo Vitug (AdMU) and Jose Jason Chancoco (FEU-RFM) for Poetry in English; Francess Raymundo (UA&P), Raissa Claire Rivera (UP-Dil) and Jaclyn Qua Hiansen (AdMU) for Fiction in English; and Rogelio Braga (UST) for Fiction in Filipino.

Iglap is the newly established creative writing institute of the Ateneo de Manila University. Dr. Benilda Santos, one of the country's leading poets, sits as the institute's director with D.M. Reyes as co-director. The 2nd Ateneo National Writers Workshop is Iglap's first project.

American advisers now here–US Embassy

Story Below, Column 1

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2001 ★★ 54 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 312 ₱15

Mikey takes up dare: He'll go to Kabul . . .

GUSTO KONG MAKIPAGBAKBAKAN SA AFGHANISTAN!
ANG LAKAS NG LOOB KASI 'DI MANGYAYARI!

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Who's afraid of the Taliban? Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is apparently not one of

MIKEY/ A14

Forbes abduction foiled

THE KIDNAPPING of a woman who was only described as a "rich Chinese lady" inside the compound of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church in Forbes Park, Makati, was foiled yesterday morning when the victim screamed, "God, help me."

According to a parish report, her screams panicked the three kidnappers, two of whom were inside the woman's car.

The intended victim heard Mass at 7:30 a.m. After the Mass, she proceeded to the adoration room near the parish office behind the church.

FORBES/ A15

Taliban seeks bombing break

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—The Taliban foreign minister has asked the Americans to slow down the bombing campaign so moderates in the Afghan leadership can reconsider their refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden, a Western diplomatic source said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil asked Pakistan to convey the message during a secret visit to this country within the last few days, the source said on condition of anonymity.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell met here Tuesday with President Pervez Musharraf but it was unclear whether the issue was raised and if so what was the US official's response.

US-led air strikes aimed at forcing the Taliban to hand over Bin Laden have intensified in the past few days.

"As far as I understand, he asked (Pakistan) to negotiate with the Americans concerning the air strikes to let the moderate Taliban regroup and rethink their policy," the source said.

TALIBAN/ A15

LOW-FLYING turboprop, high-firepower AC-130, a special forces aircraft typically used to support ground troops, was used for the first time since the US strikes began Oct. 7, during Monday's attacks. According to analysts, the use of the AC-130 indicated that after more than a week of attacks by ship-launched cruise missiles and high-flying jets, the threat from the Taliban air defense has been greatly diminished.

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Italian priest kidnapped

By Hernan P. dela Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—About 10 to 15 heavily-armed men in fatigues last night abducted an Italian priest while he was taking supper inside his parish church in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, his superiors reported.

Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Zacarias Jimenez identified the victim as Fr. Giuseppi Piarantoni of the Sacred Heart of Fathers.

"He was snatched by heavily armed men," Jimenez told reporters.

"We have no definite news about who they were," said Fr. Gerry Sheehy, Piarantoni's superior who's based in Manila.

"The men took him away in a twin-engine boat," Fr. Sheehy told the Inquirer.

The bishop said that Piarantoni was seized around 7:25 p.m. inside his parish church, Our Lady of Fatima Dimataling. He had just finished saying Mass and was having dinner when the unidentified men barged in.

He has been the parish priest of the coastal town of Dimataling in the western part of the province for more than three years. Forty percent of the town's residents are Muslims.

Fr. Sheehy told the Inquirer that the 44-year-old Piarantoni, who's a native of Bologna, has been in Mindanao for the past 10 years.

Supt. Samson Ubay-Ubay, acting provincial police chief, said policemen from the 904th Mobile Group Company and soldiers of the 55th Infantry Battalion had been dispatched to track down the abductors. Authorities believed that the suspects used the Illana Bay as escape route.

Ubay-Ubay and Jimenez would not speculate on the identities of the kidnappers.

On nearby Basilan Island, the Abu Sayyaf bandits are currently holding an American Christian missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and nine Filipino hostages.

GETTY IMAGES

A TASTE of the good life for the long-suffering Afghans may be had from the packets containing high-protein food dropped by US planes after daily bombings for the past two weeks. Over half a million packets have been dropped so far from the sky like manna on the parched Afghan soil.

Anthrax scare hits RP: Letters send jitters

THE PHILIPPINES refused to be left behind in the worldwide anthrax scare.

From Zambales to Bicol to the Visayas, panicky people suddenly found letters soliciting subscription to The Economist magazine "suspicious-looking," and turned them over to the authorities.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority even evacuated its main administration building yesterday morning after three of its personnel received such letters, which they suspected were laced with the anthrax bacteria.

The letters became the object of suspicion because they contained a list of prominent personalities like US President George W. Bush, former South Africa President Nelson Mandela and Microsoft's Bill Gates.

ANTHRAX/ A14

Apec meet: Trade on agenda, terror on their minds

SHANGHAI—Despite efforts to reassure Muslim nations that the war on terrorism was not an assault on Islam, Malaysia's opposition to the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan resurfaced Wednesday at the ministers' meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz insisted that the military action on the Taliban protectors of prime terrorist suspect Osama bin

TRADE/ A14

US advisers now in Mindanao–US Embassy

A FIRST batch of American anti-terrorism experts has arrived in Mindanao to help train the military deal with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, the US Embassy in Manila announced yesterday.

US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts said more "consultants" would arrive before the end of the month. They will not be armed and will not join combat operations.

"They are not combat troops, just consultants who will give additional training. We will have commanders down South strategizing against terrorists in the jungles in about two weeks," Fitts said on local television.

"There are some who have arrived earlier and they are in (the military's) Southern Command," in Zamboanga City, he added.

Admiral Dennis Blair, US Pacific commander, is also due in Manila in early November to meet with defense officials.

Fitts did not disclose the number of American military advisers arriving in the country, but National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said last week that "we expect a relatively sizeable delegation" to include "basically Army officials, maybe numbering more than two dozens."

Golez said the Americans would extend not only "additional training" but also special equipment and probably share "intelligence information."

US/ A15

FACE-OFF

EDWIN BACASMAS

When President Macapagal arrives in Bacolod on Wednesday, she walks right into a party of revelers at the plaza celebrating the annual MassKara festival.

Blas O, Tessie O grill 'Mama's boy' in hearing at CA

By Rocky Nazareno

BECAUSE of a derogatory poster and a nasty letter, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho may find himself bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

Camacho emerged beet-faced from a confirmation hearing yesterday after verbal tussles with opposition Senators Blas Ople and Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

Ople asked Camacho about a derogatory poster that was posted prominently in front of his house at the height of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

"Tessie, *pokpok* (prostitute)," read the poster.

Camacho lives in a house in front of Oreta's at the Urdaneta Village in Makati.

Jolted by the revelation, Camacho could only say that while he was aware that posters had been put up in front of his house at that time, he did not know what were written on them.

He said it was his sons who displayed the posters.

"But I take full responsibility for whatever happens in my house,"

BLAS/ A14

'Hello, Billy' doesn't amuse gay community

By Stella O. Gonzales

IT'S time to hang up on the "Hello, Billy!" television commercial, according to The Library Foundation.

The Filipino gay rights organization wants the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to stop airing the latest installment of the commercial, which shows the gay character Joey apparently spreading rumors about Billy's fiancee, Gracia.

The commercial is aimed at pushing the phone company's international direct dialing service, but The Library Foundation said it was an "unfair portrayal of homosexuals" for which PLDT should publicly apologize.

The group said the commercial "un-

HELLO/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

IISNABIN ANG HEARINGI

RP not likely to meet P130-B deficit target

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT'S projected P130-billion budget deficit for next year may balloon due to an expected lower growth rate and poor revenue collections.

Sen. Ralph Recto said government projections for a P130-billion deficit are now "dead in the water" as the funding shortfall could reach P170 billion.

"The government would be lucky to tame next year's deficit at P170 billion," Recto said.

He said government was hoping the gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 4.3 to 4.8 percent next year, before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington DC.

The government expected to collect 11.3 percent of the GDP from taxes next year, or P447.6 billion.

"But like the World Trade Center towers, the growth rate and tax targets have gone up in smoke, replaced by lower forecast figures," Recto said.

Government finance officers are now looking at a 4 to 4.5 percent GDP growth next year, a decline that would impact negatively on tax collections, which are anchored on the GDP.

Recto said even the new reduced growth projection figures were optimistic and may be unrealistic.

Unless the economic managers get their act together and unleash an economic stimulus package, he said, the economy would continue to be in a slump.

Recto said the bets are on a GDP growth in the "neighborhood of three percent."

He said that a full percentage point reduction in the GDP translates to lost revenues of P39.5 billion, based on a tax effort of 11.3 percent.

"The only way for the government to stay within the P130-billion deficit target is for it to mount a severe austerity program, involving cuts in spending which would really hurt, coupled with an aggressive tax collection program," the senator said.

Recto said if the government opts for a severe austerity program, social spending might be sacrificed and the government may have to reduce infrastructure spending.

The only option left, he pointed out, is to collect taxes properly and promptly.

He said that for every peso in taxes collected, a corresponding peso evades collection.

He said the tax effort should be between 18 to 20 percent, and not the measly 11 percent, which is the current norm.

SENATE SHOWDOWN

Allies to boycott probe of Mike A

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Carlito Pablo

ADMINISTRATION senators are expected to boycott tomorrow's committee hearing on the alleged misuse of P250 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Senators Robert Barbers and Joker Arroyo said the inquiry based on Senate Resolution No. 61 by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revisions of codes and laws and electoral reforms, was without plenary authority.

"Why should I attend it when it is illegal?" Arroyo said.

SR 61 seeks an inquiry into the alleged use of PCSO money for the media campaign of four administration senatorial candidates, allegedly on orders of Mr. Arroyo.

Barbers said all the eight majority senators on the committee are expected to sign a letter to its chairman, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, informing him the hearing should be conducted by the blue ribbon committee as it involves allegations of malfeasance.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson's privileged speech detailing the alleged PCSO fund scam had been referred by Senate President Franklin Drilon to the Angara committee.

ARROYO

One week later, Sen. John Osmeña questioned the referral and moved for its reconsideration, saying the inquiry should be taken up at the blue ribbon committee.

The referral was then deferred and "held in abeyance," according to Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda.

Although Barbers refused to call it a "boycott," he said the members of the majority would not attend the hearings until the referral issue is settled. Arroyo and Barbers have signed the letter.

The other majority members of the committee are Senators Renato Cayetano, John Osmeña, Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla, Juan Flavier and Manuel Villar.

"Napag-usapan na namin yan. Lahat kaming majority senators, about 7 or 8 of us, decided not to attend. *Pipirma kaming lahat* (We've already discussed it. All of us will sign.)," Barbers said.

Lawyers of the First Gentleman also questioned the authority of the Angara committee to investigate the alleged PCSO scam.

Lawyer Patricia Bunye, Mr. Arroyo's spokesperson, said the Senate has not even resolved the issue of which committee should conduct the probe.

"More logically it should be the blue ribbon committee since the allegations involve supposed irregularities in a government agency," Bunye said in a phone interview.

She said Mr. Arroyo's lawyers are preparing a formal manifestation Senate seeking clarification on the matter of the proper forum.

"A letter will be sent soon to the Senate to seek clarification on this matter," Bunye said.

The First Gentleman will not be able to make it to Friday's hearing, however, as he is set to accompany the President to Shanghai, China, for the leaders' meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation on Oct. 20-21.

Among those summoned to appear at the hearing is former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero, who started the investigation when he accused Mr. Arroyo of ordering the release of the PCSO funds in time for the last senatorial campaign.

Arroyo, however, will be present at today's continuing Senate hearing on a separate controversy—the alleged multimillion payoff to have President Macapagal recall her veto of two telecommunications franchises.

Ombudsman denies PCSO whitewash

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has denied having whitewashed the investigation into the alleged misuse of P250 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds involving First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"The result of our initial investigation was not a cover-up for the First Gentleman," Desierto said a press briefing yesterday.

Desierto said Sen. Edgardo Angara's criticisms were unfounded as "there can be no basis to point an accusing finger at anyone."

On Tuesday, Angara criticized Desierto for allegedly "tending to exonerate in advance" those suspected of involvement in the funds mess.

Desierto said he was merely quoting the results of his office's fact-finding inquiry when he announced that there was so far no evidence linking Arroyo to the alleged funds misuse.

"What we have revealed to the press, which Sen. Angara saw in a different light, was the result of our initial investigation over the PCSO matter which was of extreme public (concern)," he said.

"My office will never be used as a cover for anybody. If evidence points to anyone, we will act accordingly. We act based on the facts at hand and not on mere allegations and utterances," Desierto said.

He clarified that the investigation was still ongoing.

"How can we clear anybody when it appears from the scanty documents we have on hand that no one has committed any crime?" said Desierto.

He said that despite the initial report, which found no evidence of any irregularity in the disbursement of the funds, his office was still awaiting the official audit report on the matter by the Commission on Audit.

"Unless my office receives the complete and full report from COA, given all pertinent evidence, and get the testimonies of the witnesses like Robert Rivero, there can be no basis to point an accusing finger at anyone," he said.

Desierto said the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau (FFIB) had not found anything irregular in the disbursement of the P250-million PCSO funds.

'Ill-advised' travel advisory

THE GOVERNMENT has asked Japan to withdraw an advisory warning Japanese not to travel to the Philippines.

The Japanese foreign ministry issued the warning on Oct. 8, the day after the United States launched military attacks on Afghanistan in a bid to smoke out suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Tourism officials said the Philippines stands to lose some $4 million daily in tourism receipts from Japanese visitors because of the advisory.

Japan placed the Philippines in the same category as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other Muslim-dominated countries where violence is likely to erupt in the wake of the US air strikes, said Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"We cannot understand why the Philippines, which is not a Muslim-dominated country and which is far from the scene of the conflict, was linked with Kabul," Tiglao told reporters.

Tiglao said the Japanese government may have "over-reacted because the Abu Sayyaf is a major local terrorist group with links to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network."

A diplomatic note filed by the Department of Foreign Affairs with its Japanese counterpart Wednesday expressed "concern" at the travel advisory and asked that it be lifted. *AFP*

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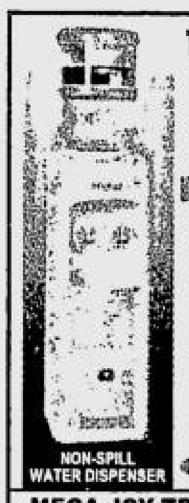
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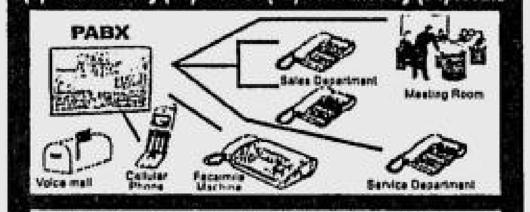

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Sandigan hit for 2 pro-Erap rulings

By Volt Contreras
And Gerald G. Lacuarta

FEELING that the camp of ousted President Joseph Estrada has put one over them, state prosecutors and militant groups have branded as dangerous precedents the Sandiganbayan's last two decisions that seemed to favor the former chief executive.

Some 150 protesters from Plunder Watch, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Courage and allied groups picketed the Sandiganbayan, decrying the court's order canceling the continuation of Estrada's plunder trial yesterday and today.

In that order, the court's third division cited a pending defense motion seeking to nullify the start of the plunder trial on Oct. 1, as the reason for the latest cancellations.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto filed a Manifestation of Concern over the court's cancel order issued late Tuesday.

The ousted president and his co-accused son, Jinggoy, had reluctantly attended the trial's Oct. 1 opening without their lawyers.

Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, division chair, justified the order in a press briefing yesterday, saying the defense motion raised "very serious issues" that deserve "a second look."

The Sandiganbayan decision to allow Estrada to attend a photo session with his wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, during the Senate's 85th anniversary Tuesday also has some groups worried the anti-graft court is leaning toward acquittal of the accused.

Dr. Carolina Pagaduan Araullo, Plunder Watch convenor and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan official, said her group met with Desierto yesterday to express "serious concerns over the Estrada trial which is seeming to veer toward a whitewash, or worse, an acquittal."

"Looking over what has transpired, we fear the Sandiganbayan and the defense panel may be confederating against the demand for a swift, fair and public trial for the ousted president and his cohorts," Araullo said.

"That Estrada did not attend the photo session is less important than the Sandiganbayan's decision to provide his camp with more precedents toward court-approved 'special treatment' and 'house or hospital arrest' for all the accused," she said.

The anti-graft court had allowed Estrada to attend not only the 2 p.m. picture-taking but also "any socials" with incumbent and former senators, provided this was within the Senate building and only up to 5 p.m.

Badoy said the court's decision to proceed with the Oct. 1 trial was based on grounds he as chair offered in open court, after consulting with the two other member justices, Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde.

Badoy said there's room for "discussion" regarding the grounds he cited for opening the trial because "it does not necessarily follow that what I said in open court was to their (other justices') liking."

Aware of the protest going on outside the courthouse, Badoy reiterated "the court will not be railroaded into proceeding with anything even if the entire country is rallying, because we want to proceed with a thorough and adequate study of all the issues."

Estrada lawyers led by Rene Saguisag filed two new motions yesterday repeating their request to have the trial moved to November, when they all have freer schedules.

As this developed, Desierto filed a new perjury complaint against Estrada for the latter's alleged failure to disclose his real wealth in 1998.

The latest complaint, which was originally filed by the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption (VACC) with the Ombudsman on Sept. 10, was filed yesterday before the Sandiganbayan. *With Michael Lim Ubac*

Marcoses to PCGG: Let's talk

By Christine Avendaño

THE MARCOS family has sent an emissary to the Presidential Commission on Good Government with negotiation "feelers" regarding a possible settlement of the ill-gotten assets allegedly accumulated by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his family, PCGG chair Haydee Yorac revealed yesterday.

Before Yorac made the disclosure at the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos told reporters there she was for a resolution of the ill-gotten wealth issue.

"If there is money and no evidence we should come to terms on a solution no matter how imperfect," said Imee, even as she questioned what she claimed was the "revival" of four graft cases against her mother, Imelda Marcos.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court yesterday set for Nov. 20 the arraignment and pre-trial of Imelda on the four graft cases for which she was served an arrest warrant last Tuesday and posted a P120,000 bail bond.

The cases, filed in 1995, pertained to Imelda's "direct participation" in and "ownership" of three dummy Swiss foundations and Banque Paribas accounts, which were allegedly used to hide the Marcoses' illegally acquired wealth.

Yorac, who was in the House yesterday for the budget deliberations, declined to give details of what was discussed with the Marcos emissary during a meeting some two and a half months ago.

"They've conveyed ideas to us and we sent our ideas as well," she said.

She said she gave the Marcos emissary following conditions for "considering any settlement":

- Complete disclosure of assets worldwide.
- Placing all these assets immediately under the control of the Philippine government if they are not able to bring them back to the country immediately.
- Agreeing to a universal settlement in which all persons with legal interest or the legal heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos be bound by the agreement.
- An apology by the Marcoses to the Filipino people.

Yorac said that the emissary has yet to get back to the PCGG.

"We're prepared to talk terms," said Yorac but ruled out any chance of a 50-50 sharing formula or even a 25-75 sharing formula proposed earlier by former PCGG chair Magtanggol Gunigundo.

"We are confident that we can craft the agreement in such a way that would not be humiliating to the Filipino people," Yorac said.

The Marcos siblings, Imee and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., both assailed the arrest order on Imelda and accused the government of harassing them as "a way to negotiate or compel us to come to an agreement."

They are squeezing my mother so she will negotiate with the government. We have always said that we are willing to negotiate. In fact, we have always tried to be the ones initiating these negotiations," Bongbong Marcos said.

Asked whether there were ongoing negotiations between the Marcoses and the government, Imee said there were "no discussions officially."

She denied that the Marcoses owned the Swiss accounts referred to in the four graft cases.

She said the burden of proof was with the government and if there was no evidence, then it was about time a resolution was made for the "benefit of the people." *With a report from Cristina Arzadon and Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cakewalk for Gordon

YESTERDAY'S expected heated Commission on Appointments hearing on the confirmation of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon turned into a cakewalk for the appointee, after he promised to highlight the provinces of the CA members in tourism promotions.

In a light-hearted exchange in the otherwise stringent CA hearings, it was agreed that "all districts represented by the members of the commission shall be included in the Department of Tourism's list of destinations."

Gordon, however, told the CA members there was no need for such a resolution as their districts were already part of the DOT's tourism master plan.

The parochial bragging began when Sen. Blas Ople, who hails from Malolos, Bulacan, said he hoped the DOT would promote his hometown as the birthplace of the first Philippine Republic.

"I hope the DOT would consider the historical fact that the first republic was born in Bulacan," Ople said. *Norman Bordadora*

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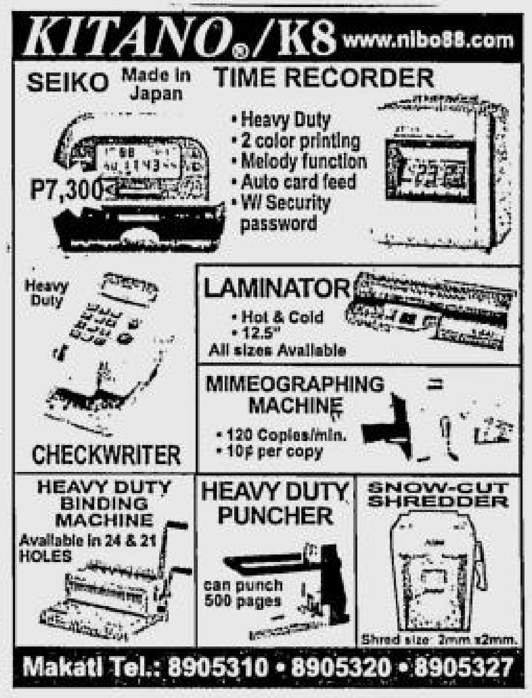

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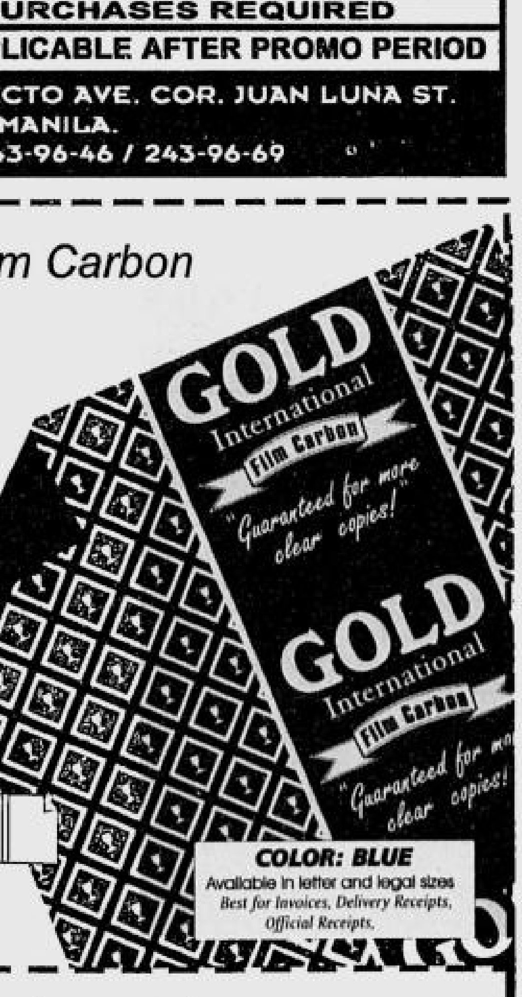
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MESSAGES

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I extend my warmest salutations to the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA and to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on the event of this National Convention with the theme, "HOUSING ... Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery."

I laud this collaborative effort between the government and the private sector as an important step in implementing our government's housing policy. It is heartening that the members of CREBA share our belief that the housing and real estate sector should take a more active role in effecting economic recovery and national development.

This convention is relevant as it sustains my administration's present thrust to invigorate the housing industry and provide adequate housing for our countrymen, especially the poor. Part of our work in this direction is the construction of 18.000 housing units for the needy and the implementation of measures to accelerate security of land tenure in order to provide long range solutions to the growing shelter needs of our people.

I welcome this event, therefore, as an opportunity to set all the endeavors of housing stakeholders in the context of our program to provide housing for the poor and over-all poverty alleviation efforts. I enjoin the players in the housing industry under the leadership of CREBA to undertake initiatives in this direction. May this convention come up with concrete measures that will help in realizing our vision of providing shelter for every Filipino family.

Mabuhay!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President
Republic of the Philippines

It is with great pleasure that I greet the organizers and participants in the CREBA-HUDCC National Convention 2001 slated on October 18-20, 2001 at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Bacolod City.

I join my fellow workers in the government in commending the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) for spearheading this laudable undertaking. I also take in earnest the theme of the Convention - "Housing... Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery" - as it underscores the primordial importance of addressing a deep-seated problem confronting our society and people today. Indeed, the debilitating problem of poverty can be effectively addressed by providing our homeless countrymen the opportunity and access to shelter programs, an effort that must go hand and hand with the goal to empower our people through education, employment, livelihood, and basic health services.

I am confident that the CREBA-HUDCC National Convention 2001 will be able to pave the way for a concerted and serious effort to ensure the affordability of housing to a great mass of our people. For our people deserve no less from their government.

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Convention Highlights

In facing the challenge of healing a wounded nation, the Macapagal administration is not known to make big promises, but is taking every step to achieve its goal. In the housing sector, for instance, the HUDCC chair has conveyed the message that the President has put herself on the line in the massive task of providing housing, and is asking the private sector, to "put ourselves also on the line for this noble cause".

The Bacolod convention is Creba's contribution to this national effort of healing, by providing a national forum through which the stakeholders in the housing and real estate sector shall identify and address current housing issues. As the legitimate sounding board of the industry, Creba insists that housing is the key to healing the industry, the national economy and the nation.The convention likewise constitutes the response of every Creban to the call of the Arroyo administration for a greater private sector participation in the formulation of a national vision.

The convention program is well trimmed, focusing only on the most critical issues, while retaining the annual treats that developers look forward to, such as the dialogue with the housing agencies, where developers are provided the time and venue to redress their grievances, and to voice out their sentiments. Outside the formal sessions, ample time is provided for fellowship...

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During this healing process, and during each and every step of the way to national recovery, Creba will ensure that the voice of the housing sector will be heard.

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Programme of Activities

DAY I - October 18 (Thursday)

7:00am	Arrival/Registration
8:00	Departure for Marapara Golf Club
9:00	Opening of Trade Exhibits & Ribbon Cutting
10:00	Motorcade
1:00pm	Exploring Career Opportunities in Real Estate
1-4:pm	Opening of Business Matching Program Public Consultation on Housing Tour of the City / Historical Sites / Hacienda
7:00	Fellowship by the Sea

DAY II - October 19 (Friday)

7:00	Mass at the Ballroom
7:30	Breakfast & Registration
	FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES
9:00	Call to Order Entry of Colors Invocation National Anthem CREBA Hymn Welcome Remarks Investment Opportunities in Bacolod Real Estate Development in Bacolod **Keynote Speaker: Secretary MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR**
1:00pm	***Housing Laws & Policies Forum:*** National Housing Policy and Directions • Sec. Michael T. Defensor Priority Legislative Agenda on Housing • Sen. Francis N. Pangilinan • Cong. Prospero C. Nograles House Bill 1300 "Omnibus Housing & Urban Act" • Cong. Eduardo C. Zialcita
3:00	***Property Development Forum:*** How Developers Are Coping with the Crisis • Metro Pacific Corp * Empire East Land • Robinsons Land Corp * Fortune Star Const
4:00	Real Estate Dev't Opportunities in the Eco Zones • Mr. Wilhelm G. Ortaliz - Dep. Dir. Gen. P E Z A
5:00	An Update on the AFP/DECS Housing Program • Lt. Gen. Jose M. Calimlim - AFP Housing Board An Update on the DECS Housing Program • Ms. Sonia de Leon - OIC, DECS
7:00	Chapter Festival Night

DAY III - October 20 (Saturday)

7:00am	Breakfast Invocation National Anthem CREBA Hymn
8:00	***Housing Delivery Workshops:*** **Housing Regulations & Requirements** • Comm. Francisco L. Dagnalan - HLURB • Sec. Hernani A. Braganza - DAR • Administrator Senecio O. Ortile - LRA • Mr. Bienvenido F. dela Cruz - LMB-DENR • Atty. Eufrocina S. Casasola - BIR
10:30	**Housing Production** • Mr. Edgardo D. Paminiuan - GM, NHA • Atty. Angelico T. Salud - President, NHMFC • Atty. JimmyB. Sarona - VP, HGC • Arch Prosperidad A. Luis - President, UAP • Mr. Justo E. Manalo - President, PCA
1:00pm	**Housing Finance/Special Financing Packages** • Mr. Manuel C. Crisostomo - Pres./CEO, HDMF • Ms. Corazon dela Paz - President, SSS • Ms. Josefina Valera - VP, GSIS • Ms. Ma. Teresita S. Liwanag - VP, DBP • Mr. Rodrigo B. Supena - SVP, LBP • Gov. Rafael B. Buenaventura - BSP
3:00	**Closing Plenary Session– Approval of Resolutions**
5:00	Group Meetings / free time National Directorate & Chapter Presidents Meeting Shopping
7:00	**GALA & AWARDS NIGHT** Theme: Masskara Festival.

MESSAGES

JOSE DE VENECIA
House Speaker
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations (CREBA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on your National Convention 18-20, 2001.

We at the House of Representatives have taken a keen interest in the housing problem, and I am glad that you share my strongly held view on the need to provide every Filipino family with a house of their own. Addressing this need is a key component of the 747 Economic Action Plan we have proposed, designed to spur 7 percent economic growth for the country over a period of seven years.

Your theme "Housing... Key to National Healing Process and Economic Recovery" aptly summarizes what we hope to achieve. Building one house creates six to seven skilled jobs, and our goal of building 750,000 houses in three years will ensure a sustainable employment and income for many Filipinos, while significantly lowering the housing deficit, indeed striking two birds with one stone.

Solving the housing problem is an imperative of both our struggle for prosperity and our need for justice. A nation cannot be prosperous or be regarded as just, for as long as significant numbers of its people are homeless. The demand for decent dwellings has become an incessant cry from our suffering people. It is encouraging and heartening to know that we have a group of competent men and women who are up to the task.

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JOSEPH G. MARAÑON
Governor
Province of Negros Occidental

Greetings!

We commend the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council for holding this event. At this time when millions of our countrymen need roofs above their heads, the theme of your convention "Housing...Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery" is very appropriate.

By bringing out major real estate issues and events, this gathering will hopefully contribute to the national discussion of the role of housing in development.

The healing process and economic recovery of our country can only be fully achieved if we all do our share. May this convention equip you with more ideas and solutions, which will redound to the benefit of our fellow Filipinos.

God bless and mabuhay kayong lahat!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

CHARLIE V. GORAYEB
CREBA National President

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all delegates and distinguised guests on the occasion of the CREBA-HUDCC National Convention.

We gather once more as a single body, foremost to address our common concerns. While there is much to be desired of our industry at this stage, this effort makes no pretense of holding the single key that would unlock its mysteries.

Some of the best minds in the industry have poured our best efforts into.making this convention worth everybody's investment, talent, time and energy. It is therefore our fervent hope that this convention will contribute to the betterment of the industry that we profess to take cudgels for.

To our counterpart in the government housing sector, it is our pleasure to have worked side by side with you in staging this event.

To the organizing committee, my sincerest congratulations for a job well done. Anything that is worth doing for the industry, is and will always be worth the effort.

To the convention delegates, our warmest welcome. Your coming over is a clear sign of your desire to be involved and to be counted in the common effort to push forward a truly national shelter program for all Filipinos.

To all our supporters, not only our thanks but our assurance as well that your help will be put to best use.

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Sec. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
HUDCC Chairman

May I extend my warmest greetings to the organizers of and participants to the joint National Convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association (CREBA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on October 18-20, 2001 in Bacolod City.

Your chosen theme, "Housing...Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery" well recognizes the concern of the present times. With housing as the centerpiece program of the government, the realty profession plays a critical role in fueling our country's economic growth.

As an earnest partner of the government shelter sector, I am truly grateful to CREBA's all-out support to the housing program of the Arroyo Administration.

We sincerely hope that this fruitful partnership that we have started will continue, as we strive to open more opportunities for private sector participation in the government's housing program.

Again, my sincere congratulations and best wishes for CREBA's continuing success.

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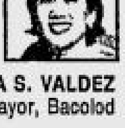

LUZVIMINDA S. VALDEZ
City Mayor, Bacolod

It is with utmost pleasure that I join the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on the occasion of its three-day national convention here on October 18,19 and 20.

Your theme, "Housing...Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery" indeed reflects a sentiment which we in local government share as we look forward to providing our less fortunate constituents adequare housing opportunities.

In this regard, it is my sincere hope that through these activities the CREBA and HUDCC will be able to plot more concrete and realistic strategies that can contribute positively to our country's struggle to make housing a meaningful reality to millions of deserving Filipino families.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes to CREBA and HUDCC!

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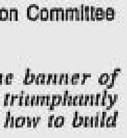

PURITA R. SOLIVEN
Overall Chair
Convention Committee

It is my sincere pleasure to offer my Congratulations and to welcome our guests, friends and delegates to the 2001 CREBA-HUDCC National Convention.

The seemingly interminable months just passed were indeed trying ones for us, but the unity of purpose and cooperation of everybody responsible in the preparation of this convention has allowed us to hurdle all obstacles. Today we are determined more than ever to carry on the banner of CREBA and together with HUDCC, we will proudly and triumphantly convince all that, in this part of the world, CREBA knows how to build and provide shelter.

Our theme, "Housing...Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery" underscores the humanitarian concern that our association can demonstrate by initiating projects that will help improve the quality of life of our people.

As we look together as a team, I know that we will be able to extend shelter to even greater numbers.

With a heart brimming with gratitude and appreciation, I say to all, "Thank you and Godspeed".

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Gloria still popular in 'troubling times'

Pulse Asia survey rates other leaders high

By Carlito Pablo

FILIPINOS approve of the performance of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the country's top officials and agencies during the "troubling times" following the deadly Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

This was shown in the third quarter survey conducted nationwide by Pulse Asia Inc. between Sept. 22 to Oct. 4 amid the backdrop of "international terrorism heightening the political, economic and other critical concerns of long-suffering Filipinos."

"Filipinos express much approval for government performance during these troubling times, with the President and other officials practically all reflecting a net surplus of approving rather than disapproving constituencies," Pulse Asia said in its Ulat sa Bayan survey report released yesterday.

Pulse Asia also noted signs of political healing because for the first time since the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, all senators posted positive net approval ratings.

However, the poll firm pointed out that "most senators whose approval ratings fall below the mean (63 percent) are legislators perceived to be sympathetic to the former president."

Survey results showed that 6 out of 10 Filipinos or 63 percent express approval for the performance of President Macapagal, the same rating recorded in March 2001 when she was first rated for performance as President.

With a 17 percent disapproval rating and 20 percent undecided, the President earned a net approval rating of 46 percent, or up by 5 percent from the 41 percent net approval rating she got in Pulse Asia's second quarter survey.

"Moreover, approval for the President does not vary in any significant way across the country's geographic areas, socio-economic groups, age groups, level of educational attainment, and employment status," Pulse Asia said.

Multistage sampling

Pulse Asia said it used a "multistage probability sampling to identify 1,200 nationally representative adults 18 years old and above" for its quarterly survey.

The poll company said the survey has "a plus or minus 3 percent margin at the 95 percent confidence level."

"Pulse Asia undertakes this survey on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort," the firm also said.

Results also indicated that all 23 Cabinet secretaries enjoyed positive net approval ratings ranging from 9 percent (Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong) to 70 percent (Education Secretary Raul Roco).

Roco, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II (41 percent) and Interior Secretary Jose Lina (40 percent) got the top three highest net approval ratings while Sto. Tomas, Datumanong and Dante Canlas, director general of the National Economic Development Authority, with 12 percent bring up the rear.

Pulse Asia said the high public approval for members of Ms Macapagal's Cabinet has added to her own approval ratings.

"Among those appreciative of the work being done by 23 Cabinet secretaries who are rated in the current survey, approval for President Macapagal-Arroyo ranges from 68 percent to 80 percent—higher by anywhere from 5 to 17 points than her overall approval rating," the poll firm said.

Survey results also showed that of the five top constitutional officials led by Ms Macapagal, Senate President Franklin Drilon got the highest net approval rating of 59 percent, followed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

Guingona, De Venecia

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia earned net approval ratings of 41 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

"Chief Justice Davide, Senate President Drilon and President Arroyo emerge as a powerful troika in the public mind, facilitating the rule of law and democratic institution-building in the country at this critical juncture in history," the Pulse Asia report said.

Of the ratings by Guingona and De Venecia, Pulse Asia said that while their disapproval ratings are relatively low, the level of indecision among the respondents in the survey "may prove to be quite problematic" for them as well as to most Cabinet officials.

"For these two officials, about one in four Filipinos appears unable to decide on whether to approve or disapprove of their performance," the survey said.

Pulse Asia also said "much vacillation rather than outright public disapproval for many government officials and agencies prevents the Arroyo administration from enjoying a more comfortable level of public support."

Among the senators, television personalities Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda scored the highest net approval ratings of 80 percent and 72 percent, respectively.

Legarda is tied at 72 percent only by Sen. Juan Flavier.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has been accused of serious crimes like large-scale money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping-for-ransom, got the third lowest net approval rating of 18 percent.

Lacson's net rating is trailed only by those of Senators Robert Jaworski (11 percent) and Teresa Aquino-Oreta (10 percent).

Estrada's spouse, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, got a net approval rating of 33 percent, followed by Ramon Revilla with 27 percent and Lacson's 18 percent.

Pulse Asia noted that Sen. Edgardo Angara, who tied with Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. with a net approval rating of 62 percent, is among the top seven best-rating senators, "indicating his full recovery of the high regard Filipinos had for him in the past."

Pulse Asia said being associated with the Estrada camp "does not disable Senator Angara any more as it does the others."

Angara was the last executive secretary who served Estrada and the latter's vice presidential running mate in the 1998 elections.

"The currently high public regard for Senator Angara may also be indicative of this political healing phenomenon," Pulse Asia said.

Of the 10 non-Cabinet level officials rated, only Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao got a negative net approval rating at –39 percent.

Misuari, chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, also got the highest disapproval rating (55 percent) and the lowest approval rating (16 percent).

Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo, who has been scored for the dismal conduct of the recent May 14 senatorial and local elections, got the second lowest net rating of 5 percent.

Of the 10 non-Cabinet level officials, Corazon dela Paz, president of the Social Security System, and Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police, earned the highest net ratings with 24 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, who has accused Lacson of serious crimes, earned a net rating of 7 percent with 33 percent of the respondents undecided on his performance.

Corpus, however, scored a high 85 percent on awareness ratings, second only to Misuari's 91 percent.

Of the 25 agencies included in the survey, nearly all scored majority approval ratings, except of the Department of Budget and Management (46 percent), the Metro Manila Development Authority (42 percent) and the ARMM (23 percent), the latter being the lowest.

The Departments of Education and Health got the highest approval ratings at an even 73 percent.

The uniformed services—the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police—earned approval ratings of 53 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

Palace declares long All-Saints' weekend

MALACAÑANG yesterday declared the afternoon of Oct. 31 and the whole day of Nov. 2 as special non-working days to allow workers all over the country to celebrate this year's All Saints' Day.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made the declaration in an order released by Malacañang yesterday "to give full opportunity to our people to properly observe (All Saints' Day) with all its religious fervor, which invariably requires them to travel to different regions of the country."

The order was based on a recommendation made by the Department of Tourism. It was signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in behalf of the President.

This would mean a four-and-a-half-day vacation for workers since Nov. 1 falls on a Thursday. All Saints' Day is the traditional day Filipinos pay homage to their dead loved ones.

NFA, PCA now under office of the president

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has placed the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) under the Office of the President.

The two offices were previously attached to the Department of Agriculture.

In issuing Executive Order 41 dated Oct. 15, Ms Macapagal said there is "a need for closer supervision" by the Office of the President over certain agencies related to agricultural modernization and food sufficiency.

She said she transferred the two agencies to the Office of the President for "policy and program coordination."

Ms Macapagal a few weeks ago castigated NFA administrator Anthony Abad when she found out that hundreds of donated sacks of rice have not been distributed.

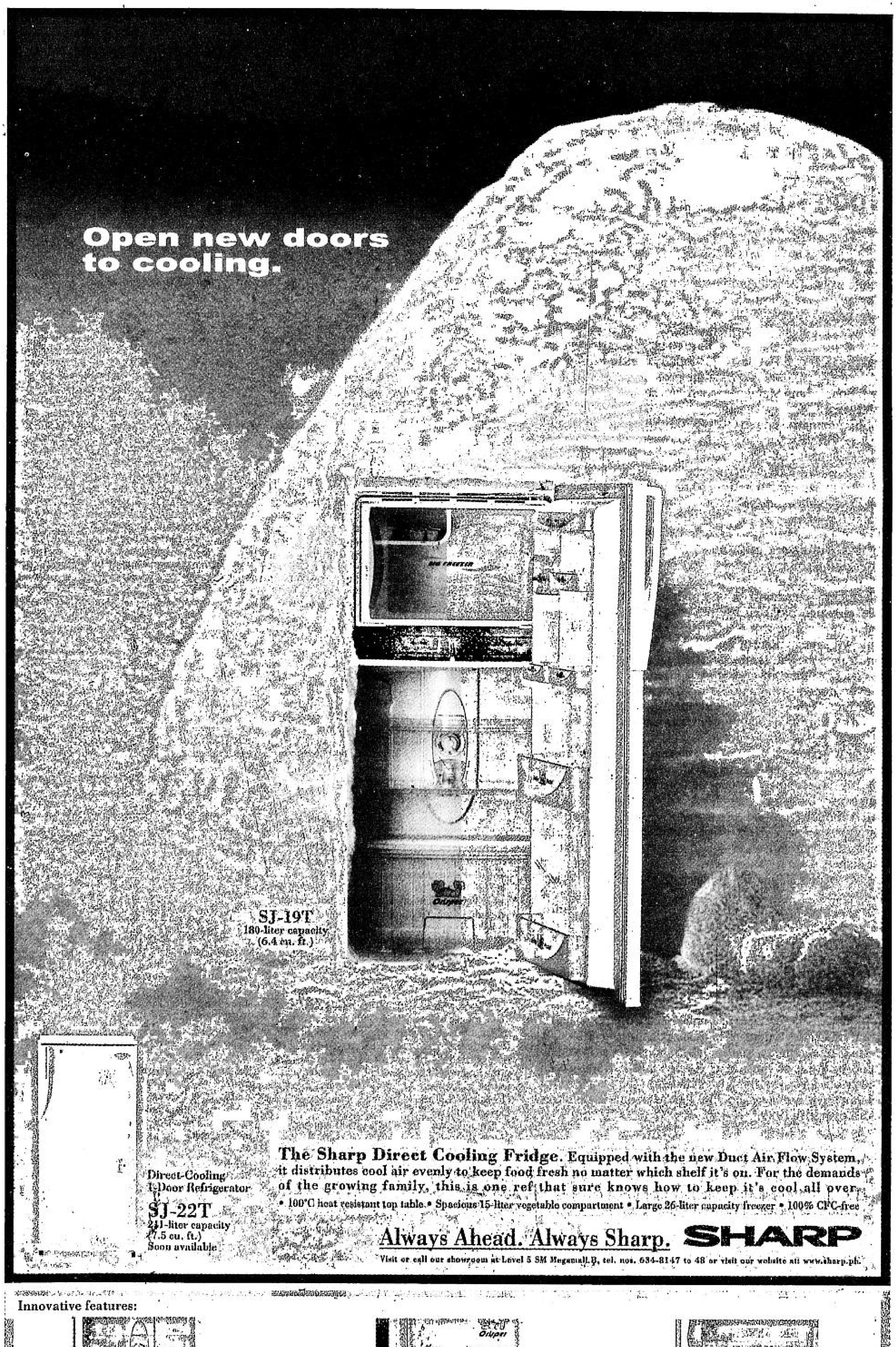
Under the EO, the President shall designate the chair of the NFA Council.

She said the NFA administrator will be the vice chair of the Council.

In the case of the PCA, the President shall also designate the chair of the PCA Governing Board. PCA administrator Danilo Coronacion will be the vice chair of the board.

The NFA and the PCA, created during the Marcos regime, were originally under the Office of the President.

In 1987, the two agencies were transferred to the Department of Agriculture under the Administrative Code of 1987.



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OPINION

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Good news

EDITORIALS

IN THE MIDST of the global economic slowdown, the Philippines has had a solid break of economic good news with the inauguration in Batangas on Tuesday of the power generating plant fed by natural gas piped in from Malampaya off Palawan. In inaugurating the project, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said "Malampaya's contribution to Philippine development is of historic proportions and its impact will be long and widely felt far beyond the energy sector in the daily lives of Filipinos."

With the project, the Philippines joins Indonesia and Malaysia as one of the major producers of natural gas in the region. Malampaya will reduce the Philippines' $3-billion annual oil import bill by $700 million and boost self-sufficiency in electricity production to 52 percent.

The Malampaya On-Shore Gas Plant inside the Pilipinas Shell refinery in Tabangao, Batangas, is supplied with gas by submarine pipes 504 kilometers long from Malampaya. The pipes coil through several islands, including Oriental Mindoro, before reaching Batangas.

The plant has begun to feed three power plants, all in Batangas, with natural gas to generate electricity supplying a quarter of the country's total power needs. One good thing about it is that natural gas is a cleaner source of energy than oil.

Electricity production is only the first phase of the Malampaya gas development program. The next step is the construction of an onshore pipeline from Batangas to Manila to supply its people with cheap liquefied natural gas for cooking and for public transport. This is an aspect that has a mass impact. The conversion of other power plants adapted to natural gas would however depend on negotiations with the Malampaya consortium—composed of Royal Dutch-Shell group, Texaco Inc. and the Philippine National Oil Co.—to lower the price of gas.

Malampaya represents the single biggest foreign investment in the Philippines ever. The marvel about Malampaya is that it is one big development project that has not been marred by corruption or kick-back scandals that normally surround big deals. Although there had been threats by local governments, including the provincial government of Palawan and municipalities through which the pipelines pass, to go to court, these disputes over royalties were overcome and did not stand in the way of completing the project. In this respect, the project should serve as a model for infrastructure projects now embroiled in controversy and law suits, such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III, now under construction.

The government expects to extract further gains from Malampaya through the securitization of royalties, but all these depend upon negotiations. At least six investment houses are on the short list of those to be invited to make a tender.

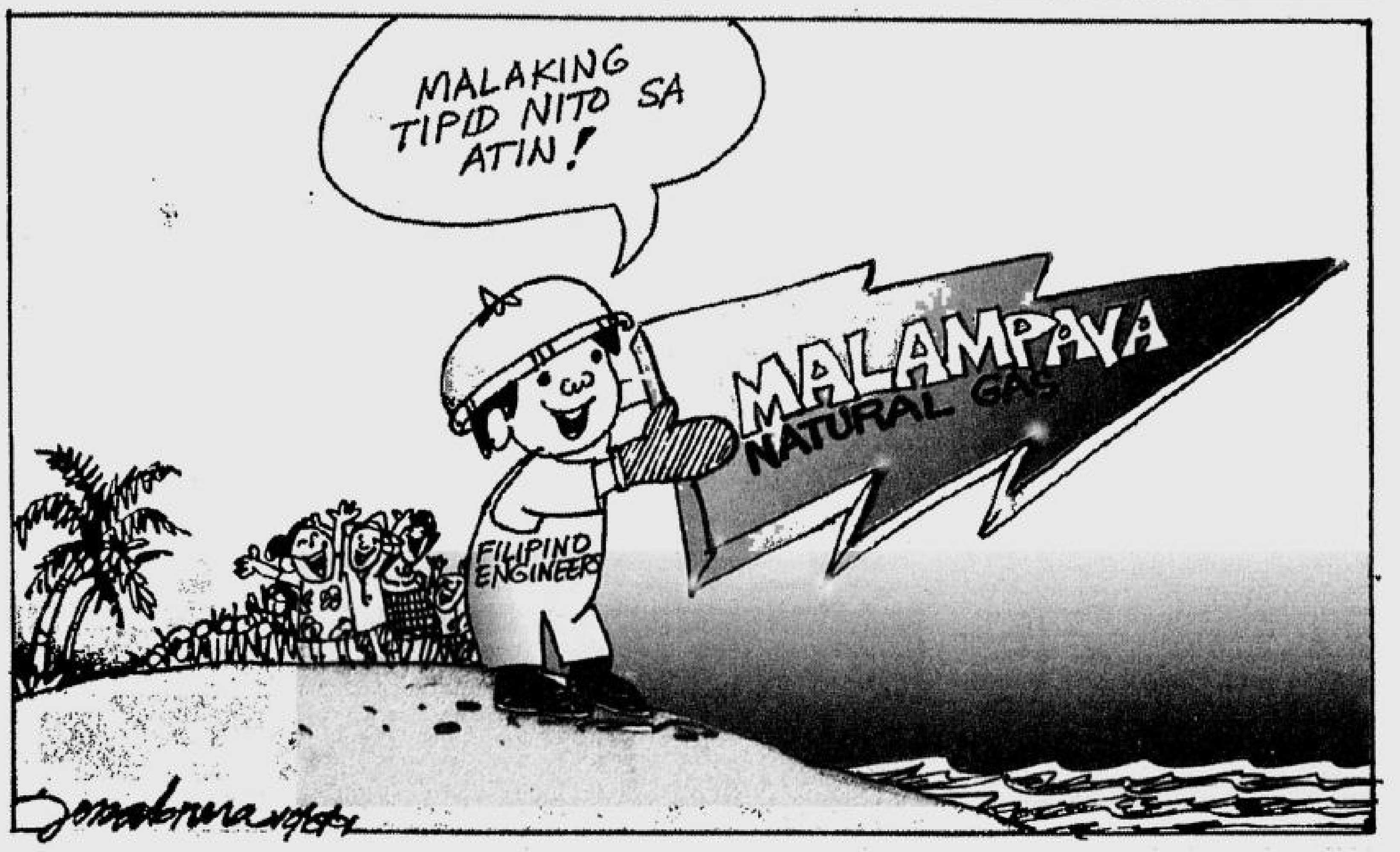
Little noted is the fact that Malampaya escaped the vicissitudes of often turbulent transitions in Philippine politics. It went through, with amazing continuity, four administrations—from President Aquino to those of Presidents Ramos and Estrada—with President Macapagal receiving a windfall from the completion of its Malampaya-Batangas pipeline. The Malampaya field was first discovered in 1989.

Feat of engineering

NO less impressive is the fact that the project is an engineering feat of vast proportions. Shell Philippines Exploration BV, operator of Malampaya's gas to power project, built the heaviest and largest integrated platform topsides deck in the Asia Pacific. According to Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, Malampaya topsides comprise the biggest facility of its kind in Asia, putting the country on the map of the oil and gas industry in the world.

The platform sits on a field from which gas is extracted from depths of 823 meters below sea level, which is much deeper than the oil fields in the North Sea, off Britain. The gas is then pumped into pipelines reaching up to Batangas.

The object lesson of Malampaya is that the country can deliver results if projects have a continuity that is not disrupted by political contention, unnecessary judicial intervention and deal cutting.



QC councilors oppressing their constituents

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE is another example of members of a legislative body, the so-called "servants of the people," abusing their power and oppressing the people they are supposed to serve, their employers who pay their salaries and allowances. The abusive body this time is the City Council of Quezon City, another "old boys' club."

The council passed a resolution approving an onerous memorandum of agreement between the Quezon City government and the Paref-Northfield School, a private company, to set up an elementary and high school on a 3.1-hectare park intended for the residents of Greenmeadows I, II and III. The problem was that the residents did not want their park given to a private school, and they were not consulted on the plan. You must have already read the running stories about this bitter controversy.

When councilors and every politician of every stripe are courting votes, they cry that they only want to serve and help their constituents. But once elected, they forget and even exploit their constituents and remember only themselves and their friends. They serve and help themselves to what their constituents pay to the government. With few exceptions, the Quezon City councilors belong to this despicable species.

Also a big disappointment is the lay religious organization, Opus Dei, which is supposed to be behind the Paref-Northfield School. With powerful and influential people among its members, Opus Dei used to have an impeccable reputation. Not anymore. Their image used to be that of religious lay people faithfully following the preachings of God. With the Paref-Northfield School controversy, the image projected is that of greedy people who trample on the rights of others in their lust for profit. Doesn't that image belong more to Satan than to God?

Without delving into the legal infirmities of the MOA and the council resolution, which have already been much discussed in the news columns, I dare say that however an objective person looks at the deal, it is obvious that it is a "deed most foul." The city government and council overstepped the bounds of their authority in entering into such a deal with Paref-Northfield.

The open space in any subdivision is, by law, intended for the use of the residents. While the title to it is held by the government, it really belongs to the residents. The government only holds the title in trust for the residents. They paid for it when they bought their lots. Its cost is included in the price of the lots, and it is part of the inducement for people to buy lots in the subdivision. Although it is not worded specifically in any deed of sale, the open space is assumed to be part of that contract. In fact, its development and maintenance is devolved to the homeowners' association. It goes without saying, therefore, that open space cannot be transferred, leased and used by other parties against the wishes of its owners, the residents.

The government holds the title precisely to prevent the developer or officers of the homeowners' association from selling or otherwise encumbering the open space and putting it to use other than for a park for the enjoyment of residents. Instead of safeguarding the integrity of the Greenmeadows open space, however, it is the city government that is putting it to a use for which it was not intended.

The approval of the MOA was made by the previous city council. It was railroaded by a councilor whose wife is a trustee of Paref-Northfield. It was passed on the same day that the MOA was transmitted to the council and on the same day that the resolution was filed. The council rules were suspended to add speed to the railroad. Even more speedily, the school site's blessing was made a day before the MOA was presented to and approved by the council. That was really fast.

We now have a new council. If it wants to be fair and really protect the rights of its constituents, then it can revoke the approval of its predecessor. But obviously, those behind the deal are very influential with the present councilors.

Worse, the new mayor, Feliciano Belmonte Jr., for whom we had such high regard and expectations, refuses to touch the deal. "I'm not going to be involved in it," he said, washing his hands a la Pontius Pilate.

But, Mayor, you are our leader. You cannot run away from your duty and responsibility. The councilors were elected with you and you are their leader, too. Washing of the hands is a copout, an abandonment of your responsibility and of your constituents.

The resolution of the Greenmeadows controversy concerns not only its residents but also the residents of all other subdivisions. If the construction of the school is allowed, all the open spaces in all communities would be in peril. What is to prevent other councils from surrendering the open spaces to their greedy friends even against the wishes of the residents? So all you people out there should support the Greenmeadows residents fighting this evil in our midst.

But are the people helpless against politicians, like the Quezon City councilors, abusing their authority? Not quite. A sufficient number of barangay captains or a fraction of the voters can have the erring councilors recalled and new elections will be held. I suggest you try this. It has already been done successfully.

And since the value of the open space in question is much more than the P50 million minimum set by the law against plunder, why not file plunder charges against all those involved in the deal? They can be detained without bail under the law.

And since the MOA is grossly disadvantageous to the government, why not file anti-graft charges against all the government officials involved in the deal?

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

KIDNAPPING has gone from bad to worse. Therefore, kidnappers should be put to death.

This was the logic President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regaled the Chinese community with during a luncheon meeting with them early this week. The community had turned out full force to ask the government to do something about kidnapping cases whose number has shot up tremendously. To appease its members, the President said she would put kidnappers to death, turning her back on her earlier vow to see no executions during her term.

The problem is real enough. Other countries have an apple a day, we have a kidnapping a day. That's what we've had for the last several weeks, one Chinese national being kidnapped every day, a veritable record for the Guinness Book of World Records that may not be surpassed for a long time. That does not include the Chinese who are **not** kidnapped because they pay in advance to not be kidnapped. Or more to the point, to not have their children kidnapped, which could scar them for life.

But will executing convicted kidnappers solve that problem?

Not at all. Clearly, it is one of those things calculated to show resolve. But it is about as logical as bombing Afghanistan to make terrorists pay for what they did to the World Trade Center and put an end to terrorism.

At the very least, it is neither here nor there. As the President herself knows only too well, the severity of the punishment does nothing to deter crime. The death penalty does not deter kidnapping, or rape, or murder. What deters them is catching the people who commit them. It is the reasonable assurance that the long arm of the law will catch up with criminals, and not lopping off the offending organs of rapists or the heads of murderers, that makes potential rapists and murderers think twice about becoming actual ones. We have been routinely sending rapists to meet their Maker since Congress agreed to restore the death penalty, but rape has not abated. Neither will kidnapping abate with it.

Far more importantly, the proffered solution skirts the one thing that needs to be done to stop not just the alarming rise of kidnapping but the alarming rise of criminality itself. And that is to revamp the Philippine National Police radically, if not abolish it altogether. I still hold that the second option is the only way to solve the problem. The PNP is not the cure, it is the disease. The PNP is not the key to the solution, it is the source of the problem.

At the very least, its powerlessness in the face of kidnappings of this scale, or indeed of crime of this scale in general—robbers now break into malls routinely—must show that they do not deserve the taxpayers' money that goes to them. But it is much more than that. The ability of kidnappers not just to kidnap their victims with impunity but to systematically engineer this operation on a whole community must suggest collusion with the entire law enforcement agency itself in this trade. One Chinese, asked by a TV news crew why victims did not report their ordeal to the police, just smiled wryly and turned away from the camera.

I did say during the Senate hearing on Sen. Panfilo Lacson that Mary Ong's testimony did not just indict Lacson, it indicted the PNP as a whole. The PAOCTF, which has been blamed for much of the kidnapping, drug pushing and murder, is gone, yet the kidnapping, drug pushing and murder continue unabated. Indeed, their number grow by the day. Like Osama bin Laden, Lacson must pay for his crimes, if they can be proven against him. Like Bin Laden, his destruction won't make the kidnappings stop. The rot goes deep within the PNP. Unless it is dredged up and fumigated, you can inject poison in the veins of convicted kidnappers all you want, but the kidnapping won't stop.

And finally, Ms Macapagal's proffered solution only makes the problem worse. Her other proposals include creating a "special Cafgu" that will patrol Chinatown and protect its residents. The logic of all this, of course, and one that seems to have gone unchallenged in this country, is that in dealing with crime, the first thing to do is throw human rights out the window. At best human rights are a nicety we cannot afford, at worse they are an obstacle we cannot tolerate. In fact, the very opposite is true. Throwing human rights out the window assures only that crime will riot more fiercely like weeds in the garden.

I've always held that there is a direct and causal relation between the poor observance of human rights in this country and rampant criminality. This is so because if you look closely at the nature of crime in this country, you will realize that a great deal of it is caused not by ordinary criminals but by the law enforcement agencies themselves. Scratch any big-time crime in this country and you will find the uniform of the PNP and AFP underneath. Other countries have organized crime, which is composed of criminals who organize themselves under the rule of underworld bosses. We have criminalized organizations, which is composed of law enforcers who devote themselves to crime.

What has made this possible? The very policy of throwing human rights out the window to deal with problems like rebellion and secession. The very policy of sanctioning covert operations and "salvaging" so long as they destroy the enemies of the state. That is the soil on which has grown a PNP and AFP that have no fear of God or man. That is the soil on which has grown what Victor Corpus calls "narco-politics," which is really nothing more than the law enforcement agencies generally (and not just Lacson) freely engaging in crime. That is the soil on which has grown the hydra that is today's rampant crime, and that keeps multiplying each time a head is lopped off.

A special Cafgu will protect the Chinese in Chinatown today? Maybe. But who will protect us from them tomorrow?

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

No Senate coup–Villar

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE BIRTHDAY party of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez last Monday at the Fishing Village of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City, Interior Secretary Joey Lina hinted to this columnist that the drug shipment worth P1 billion seized in Real, Quezon, a few days earlier involved big-time masterminds and financiers, and that Panukulan Mayor Ronnie Mitra was just a small fry. So, who were these masterminds and financiers? Lina understandably refused to give their names as it might jeopardize operations, but he promised to identify them in due time.

The law enforcement officers who captured that shipment ought to be congratulated for refusing millions in bribe that Mitra offered them in exchange for letting him go with the shabu intact. The lawmen will be honored by President Macapagal in Malacañang on Monday, and they should be heartened by the thought that the citizenry is definitely behind them in their efforts to bust drug syndicates. Thanks to the joint Senate hearings on drug-trafficking and revelations about the complicity of top police officials in the past, the citizens have become aware of the evils of drugs in our midst and the real danger of narco-politics. But this should be just the beginning and the anti-drug efforts should be unrelenting.

* * *

Senate President Pro-Tempore Manuel Villar asked the question that is on the people's minds: What happens to the seized shabu? What is our guarantee that it won't be substituted with *tawas* and then sold in the market? Secretary Lina told Villar that the big haul is being guarded tightly. He said he had ordered an inventory of all dangerous drugs being kept in government offices, and found out that there were over 2.5 tons of shabu! He pointed out that this didn't include other dangerous substances used as mixing agents. Whew!

The huge quantity of illegal drugs in the custody of officials shocked all of us who were listening to Lina that night. Villar asked him why they had not been burned yet. Lina said the problem is that there is a provision of law requiring that evidence should not be destroyed while cases are pending.

I asked why government agencies cannot just keep a fraction of the evidence and destroy the bulk of the illegal drugs so that they won't fall into the wrong hands. But Lina said this would require an amendment. Villar said that since the Senate is in the process of reviewing the Dangerous Drugs Law, he would propose such an amendment.

Congress should approve that amendment fast.

* * *

Secretary Sonny Alvarez's wife, Cecile, and their two children, Hexilon and Jilka, invited about 800 people to his simple buffet party, but over 2,000 people showed up, including Speaker Joe de Venecia, a number of ranking bureaucrats as well as many NGO leaders. I was glad to be able to greet Sonny on his birthday, as he remains one of the most dedicated and honest people in government today, if often a bit misunderstood. Decades after his self-exile to the United States where he carried on the fight against the dictator together with his fellow freedom fighters, his idealism remains basically unchanged.

* * *

The environment secretary's job is perhaps the most thankless as it frequently involves stopping powerful interests, including his fellow politicians, who run roughshod over the people's welfare. Over the past six months, Alvarez has had to cancel several mining concessions in the belief that transgressions have been committed, but unfortunately this involved loss of jobs. Recently he put on hold the appointment of Peter Abaya to the post of assistant secretary since he was under investigation for his actuations that resulted in the unprecedented and inexplicable rise in importation of ozone-depleting substances. Alvarez has stuck to this position despite the fact that Abaya is the son of a Cavite representative and has good PR.

For doing his job, however, Alvarez has been served notice that some politicians would give him a tough time at the Commission on Appointments because he dared say no to their proposals. But his clear conscience should be his guide and his consolation. Above all, the people should know the truth.

* * *

I queried Villar about rumors of a coup against Senate President Franklin Drilon and he said there is no truth to it. He admitted that the balance between the majority and minority remains quite precarious due to the small margin of the majority (13-11), and that the relationship between the two blocs in the chamber remains tense, but Villar opined that the current balance will hold for one big reason: the majority senators have nothing to gain from a change in leadership.

Villar, a former speaker, also opined that while the post of House chief is far more powerful than that of Senate president, the latter job is infinitely tougher since the 23 other senators are all *matitigas ang ulo*. In the House, the speaker can order the committee chairs to take a certain position, but in the Senate this can't be done. One has to persuade them. In fact, Villar laughingly recalled telling Drilon that he wouldn't like his job even if it were offered to him.

* * *

The Church of the Holy Sacrifice on the UP Diliman campus is a veritable museum of art. Four National Artists have their works enshrined there: architect Lindy Locsin, who designed the sputnik shape and columnless ceiling, a first in local architecture; master painter Vicente Manansala, who painted the 15 Stations of the Cross; master artist Arturo Luz who did the floor mural representing the "River of Life"; and sculptor Napoleon Abueva who did the wooden sculpture of Christ as Eternal Priest and Holocaust Victim. The nearly 50-year-old church is also the repository of the sacrifices and prayers of thousands of people from the Diliman Catholic community, who prayed for the commencement of its construction during Fr. John P. Delaney's time.

For the coming Christmas season, the UP community has put out a collection of 20 postcards showing the priceless artistic legacy contained in the Church. These are packed in a gift box that sells for only P120. You can get them at the UP Chapel, Tel. Nos. 927-3340, or from Tess Daza, Tel. Nos. 921-2674/435-1490, or Rose Velasco, UP Shopping Center, stall No. 25.

Billy's friend and the running man

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO ads with characters who have something in common. In the first, "Billy" takes a call from his gay friend who "commiserates" with him about the rumors circulating about his bride, Gracia. "*Nakidnap raw, at na-dyaryo pa,*" the friend says, an obvious reference to real rumors that circulated about the young woman who portrayed Gracia and which was written about in this paper. "I wonder who's spreading those rumors?" Billy asks, and his friend replies, "Beats me!" It's obvious, though, that it's the friend, who has his sights set on Billy, who's been spreading the talk.

In the second ad, a man is shown jogging in the park, and from appearances, he seems to be every marketer's dream: young, single, moneyed, a health buff. But do they "read" him accurately? He stops to tie his shoelaces and catches sight of someone in the distance. A young woman smiles his way, but he has eyes only for another man standing farther away—his boyfriend. The ad's advice: "Talk to him straight."

Two gay men in two different ad campaigns. But why has one earned the ire of gays, while the other is regarded positively?

* * *

"PERHAPS you have already seen the latest installment of PLDT's 'Billy' ad series," writes Alex, a reader. "This latest PLDT ad is pure and simple stereotyping!" It clearly sends the message that gays will do anything, even resort (to) negative behavior, just to get a man. It reinforces that misconception that gays have nothing better to do but destroy (the) relationship (of a) straight couple so that they can get their hands on the man. "I am gay and I feel insulted...I am gay and I do not resort to *'tsismis'* to get laid. I am gay and I do not fight with women to win the hearts of men, I compete with other gay men to win the heart of another gay man. I am gay and I want PLDT to know that as consumers, gays have feelings, too."

In a letter addressed to PLDT, Roberto Mendes, who says he is 27 and gay, writes that he also found the phone company's latest commercial "offensive." He then goes on to discuss emerging trends in marketing that would show marketers they ignore or insult gays at their peril:

"In recent months, several gay organizations have expressed alarm (over) the kinds of gay images exhibited in media. Considering that the advertising world is preparing to hold a major conference in November (primarily to inform the industry about emerging consumer groups), your latest commercial appears to be out of touch with reality. Like many other gay men and women, I was glad to see a gay-friendly commercial on television these past months. The commercial was a promotion for the Ad Congress...And I can guarantee that this type of gay man is not just a product of an advertiser's imagination. Individuals like these do exist. This commercial had a positive effect on me as a consumer, who just happens to be gay. It is a sign that the advertising world has finally recognized my group as a legitimate market...We buy more clothes, health and fitness products, magazines, plus we regularly attend social events like concerts, plays and the like."

* * *

"THIS is why I find your latest commercial disappointing," adds Mendes. "You are in danger of losing a very big market...Your commercial proves that PLDT and the advertising agency you hired are still clearly ignorant on how (the) majority of us really live. Your perception of us is still based on old and negative stereotypes.

"...Generalization or stereotyping breeds hatred. It demonstrates lack of respect for a specific group of people. And considering that you are selling a product/service, it is downright poor marketing strategy...I'd like to believe that a company such as PLDT, which claims to bring people together, actually puts into practice what it declares."

"Niche marketing," or "targeted advertising," the theme of the coming ad congress, is not really all that new a concept. But in the face of the coming economic contraction, marketers and advertisers are realizing the need to be more cost-efficient and focused. In insulting gays for the sake of a few laughs, could it be said that PLDT has committed niche alienation?

My view is that this goes beyond the gay community, for a major advertiser like PLDT needs to know that you can't insult a segment of the market without offending the rest of your community of customers.

* * *

NOTEWORTHY: "Payatas: Point-Counterpoint," a dance video collaboration choreographed by Myra Beltran and directed by Carlos Siguion-Reyna (with two of the videos co-directed by Nonoy Froilan), will screen this Saturday, Oct. 20, at 2 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue.

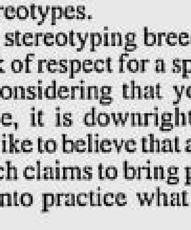
"Payatas" was first presented by Beltran, Siguion-Reyna and the Ballet Philippines at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater earlier this year with the narrative video on screen in the background and the dancers performing live. Beltran and Siguion-Reyna decided to photograph the dance separately to play alongside the story video for a screening sponsored by Kalakasan, a women's advocacy group. I wrote about this "gut-wrenching" dance video soon after the Kalakasan anniversary, and I'm happy more people may now share the experience. Edited by Rica Concepcion, the 42-minute video challenges the viewer to watch two stories unfold at the same time as projected on two video screens on stage. On the left, the dance interpretation of the story, and on the right the narrative itself, which touches on domestic violence and the exploitation of its victims.

The Filipinas Heritage Library screening is free of charge and open to the public, through the support of the Ayala Foundation, Jaime Zobel, Fernando Zobel, Jaime Augusto Zobel, Sofia Elizalde, Cecille Cruz, Thor Balanon and Anna Leah Sarabia. Call 892-1801 for reservations.

CIDSS and community empowerment

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



I HIED off to several lakeshore barangays in Muntinlupa the week after the devastating terrorist attacks in the United States in order to find some signs of hope even in the midst of poverty and the unending struggle that many Filipinos go through. I went home hopeful, knowing that people are working hard to cross that yawning divide that prevents many from claiming the decent life that should be theirs. And that there are groups and individuals in government who are walking with them, helping to empower them.

While the terror-stricken of this world are trying to cope with their fears about what may be the consequences of the attacks and the counterattacks, the poor go on with their daily chores in their small congested world, coping, worrying about real immediate needs: water and food, health, shelter, education, clothing. There are life-and-death battles to be won for the day. The big wars are for another day.

How are poor families and communities helped in this area? Is anyone paying attention? I am not a great believer in government development projects for the poor because of the red tape and corruption that mar its success but here's one that might just make it to my book.

The Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) is one of the nine flagship programs of the Social Reform Agenda under the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It is a development strategy which focuses on building the capabilities of families to meet their identified "minimum basic needs" (MBN). The CIDSS is self-help, not dole-out. It begins and ends with the people, themselves the basic movers toward change and progress. Comprehensive because it aims to cover all MBNs of the target poor communities. Integrated because it uses the "convergence strategy" of pooling together the resources of GOs, NGOs, POs.

I don't want to go into the mechanics of the CIDSS and would rather go straightaway to the communities where it is coming to life.

In Sitio Laguerta, Barangay Tunasan, a community of 259 families, women have set up a store that sells good rice at below-market prices. Each card-bearing family can buy two kilos per family member per week. The whole operation is run by volunteers, mostly mothers. They only get free snacks. Set up last February through a P50,000 loan from the barangay, the store grosses a daily average of P5,000 and has already paid almost half of the loan.

The DSWD assists through organizing and training and links up with the Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority in this endeavor. Organizing, as every development worker knows, is the key.

After the food, the water. While before families had to shell out so much for water that had to be fetched or rationed, they now have their own deep well as a source of safe, cheap and always available water. The old water suppliers in the neighborhood didn't have to close shop, they only had to lower their prices in order to compete.

In Barangay Bayanan, the residents organized themselves into Tinig ng Nagkakaisang Homeowners and worked to reinforce the road in their flood-prone area. They had come to this place as landless families, but through Muntinlupa's Community Mortgage Program they were able to buy a 2,600-sq. m. private property and divided it among 63 families. Now they have land and homes they can call their own. The bonding and banding continue through various projects.

Barangay Morning Breeze is one for the books. The families here were former squatters in what is now known as the Metropolis Mall. Their leaders then were the highly politicized militant types who could have fought it out to a useless bloody end but negotiations resulted in an offer the people could work on. Almost 100 families chose to pool the compensation they received to buy a lakeshore property. The rest chose to squat somewhere again.

Dante San Pedro, secretary of the community association, said they had started to live a somewhat laid-back life when the CIDSS came knocking in 1998. What was it they wanted to do to improve the lives of their families? Now they see that the DSWD is here *"hindi magpapogi lang kundi may programa."* A couple of community-run water tanks went up. A day-care center was next. And on and on.

The cash-strapped government has been able to do this with World Bank loans for "social sector programs." A $120-million loan for a Social Management Project was proposed in 1999 to retroactively finance expenditures incurred since January of that year and would have a duration of 30 months.

The primary beneficiaries of the project would be the disadvantaged groups that are heavily dependent on publicly provided basic social services such as basic education, primary health care and the like.

It will be recalled that the World Bank had a dismal assessment of the government's "pro-poor services" under the Estrada presidency. Here's hoping things become better.

Of course, there are critics of the World Bank's "rhetoric about focusing on poverty alleviation." Prof. Walden Bello, in his new book "The Future in the Balance: Essays on Globalization and Resistance," says that "this is contradicted by the reality that 70 percent of the bank's non-aid lending is concentrated in 11 countries, while the bank's 145 other member countries are left to divide the remaining 30 percent. Moreover, 80 percent of World Bank resources have gone, not to poor countries with poor credit ratings and investment ratings, but to countries that could have raised the money in international private capital markets owing to their having investment grade or high-yield ratings."

The poor do not know this and need not know this for now. They need to know the government cares and shows how.

Lies

YOUNGBLOOD

Claudette M. Llarena

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

YOU lied to me, Benj, and I'm finding it hard to forgive you.

In the short span of time that we became friends, we've always been honest with each other. Brutally candid, was how others described it. We quarreled, we fought and we argued all the time because we spoke precisely what we thought. Our four years of friendship haven't been a bed of roses, but at least I could count on you for anything because I trusted you.

But now you have betrayed me. How could you have lied? How could you hurt me this way?

When I saw you off at the Naia last year, you said things were finally looking up for you. You promised to be back before the year was over so you could drag me to the "City That Never Sleeps."

But you lied, Benj. You didn't come back.

Two months ago you called to torment me. You said you chanced upon a sale at Macy's, saw the bag I was willing to die for, and bought it for me at a ridiculously low price.

When I stopped hyperventilating, you broke my heart by telling me that I would have to wait for quite sometime because shipping charges were pretty steep. No matter how hard I begged, you didn't budge. No, you said, I had to wait for it. I called you names and you got so mad that you called me selfish. I vowed never to speak to you again. But we were back to being friends 48 hours later.

When you turned 29 last February, you promised to open a bottle of Dom Perignon when I turned 26. You said that would be your way of celebrating my so-called adulthood. You believed that I was still a brat at 25.

You also promised to sing "Happy Birthday" from the observation deck of the World Trade Center as you sipped the Dom Perignon. You foolishly, stupidly boasted that I would hear your caterwauling even if I was half a world away.

But guess what? You'll break that promise again. There is no World Trade Center anymore from where you can shout your birthday greetings. You won't need that Dom Perignon after all.

But you know what hurts most? You said you would wait for me, you would wait for the rest of us while we sorted out our lives and careers. You said you would pave the way for Scott, Lara, Jo and me so that we all could fulfill our one great dream of working in the United Nations.

We had great plans, remember? We would all live in the same house, share household responsibilities and look after each other. We would be each other's family. You even volunteered to be our "*kuya.*"

So how could it all go wrong?

You were working as a legal assistant for a medium-sized law firm in Manhattan. What were you doing on the 102nd floor of the World Trade Center last Sept. 11? I understand you were doing research on bond trading. Knowing you like I do, you wanted first-hand experience when you did your research. Was it fate that made you choose Cantor-Fitzgerald as the firm to study? But why did you have to go that day?

I have so many questions to ask you, but you have been forever silenced.

How could you leave us just when we were just starting to spread our wings? How could you so suddenly be snatched away from our lives? How could you go like that?

We're all still reeling from the enormity of the catastrophe, Benj. I am angry. How could you perish like that? You had your life ahead of you.

I know that someday I'll be able to overcome this resentment. Nothing makes sense right now. I'm trying to understand everything but it's all so confusing. All that's clear is that you lied about a lot of things.

You won't be dragging me to New York before the year is over. You won't be bringing back that bag I swooned over. You won't be yelling "Happy Birthday" at the top of the World Trade Center's south tower. We won't be sharing a house in New York. We won't work alongside each other in the United Nations. Worst of all, you won't be coming back. Ever.

I remember that you asked me last year if I had any regrets about not going to New York with you and Scott. I remember smiling and assuring you that although I was filled with envy, I had no regrets about not making that trip.

Looking back now, I realize I do have one regret. When I said goodbye to you last year, I should have hugged you tighter and much longer.

Claudette M. Llarena, 25, works in a universal bank in Makati. She says she plans to be in New York on Sept. 11, 2002 to open a bottle of Dom Perignon at the site where the World Trade Center used to be and drink in memory of Benj.

Terror and the city

Denise Racquel B. Lubio

WE always look forward to Tuesday nights. It has a great TV lineup. At 8:30 there's "The Others" on Studio 23 and a rerun of "Survivor II: Outback" on a Chinese channel at 10:30. And there's a new episode of my favorite "Sex and the City" on HBO.

Every Tuesday night my cousin and I eagerly sit in front of the idiot box, awaiting the latest antics of the four gals from Manhattan. I've always been a fan of the show from the first time I saw a poster of Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) sitting with only a laptop covering her private parts. I enjoy the situations she and her three friends often find themselves in. And even though my lifestyle is a far cry from theirs, I feel like I can relate to them like they were my friends.

We were in the middle of our Tuesday night TV marathon last month when a breaking news was flashed on the screen. It said that a plane crashed into the World Trade Center in New York.

I didn't know what the World Trade Center was; I didn't even know what it looked like. So as we went out of my room to join our family for our daily rosary, I was wondering why a plane would crash into a building?

After the rosary, my aunt who lived next door told us that a plane crashed into the Pentagon, too. This time I certainly knew what the Pentagon was: the seat of US military power.

We switched from one news channel to the next. I watched Fox News and CNN as they covered the events live. By this time, two planes had crashed into the World Trade Center. And then it happened: the World Trade Center collapsed—first the one at the back and then the other one, leaving a mushroom of cloud over Manhattan.

I watched in horror. But even as I watched, I felt as if I was seeing something totally unreal. I stayed up late that night watching the news, something I had never done before in my life.

It was just surreal. I always considered the United States as a very powerful country. And to see it brought down to its knees by a terrorist attack was scary.

A few days after the incident, my cousin and I invented a new game. We called it "Spot the World Trade Center." After seeing the towers collapse, I finally knew what it looked like. It irritated me that in almost all the shows I liked; the World Trade Center was there: "Sex and the City," "Friends," "Jack and Jill," etc. I also remember seeing those towers in the movie "The Bone Collector."

The World Trade Center wasn't really important to me. I didn't know what it was or what went on inside it. I didn't know anyone who worked there. But to see the towers collapse made me feel like it had a significance in my life.

The world of Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda will never be the same after Sept. 11. But they're only fictitious characters. What about the real people working in there? What about their families and friends? ?

People all over the world have expressed sympathy for the United States. Who even thought that this day would come, a day when we will pity a powerful country?

Right now, everyone is looking for answers to why this happened. The United States is trying to find the terrorist who did it. But killing Osama bin Laden will not magically bring back the World Trade Center. One man's life cannot compensate for the thousands of lives lost.

The directors of "Sex and the City" can find another shot for those in-between scenes. Music groups can choose another location for a video shoot. But the fact is that the World Trade Center which used to tower over Manhattan is gone. New York City's skyline will never be the same again.

I can watch reruns of movies and TV shows and see the World Trade Center again. Just as the families and friends of the victims can look at their pictures again and again. But doing that won't make us feel better.

Denise Racquel B. Lubio, 20, is a theater arts student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

LETTERS

Drug traffickers deserve no mercy

WHILE we are elated by the President's decision to implement the death penalty for convicted kidnappers, we should not forget that there are also a number of convicted drug traffickers languishing in our jails whose execution has been delayed. These drug traffickers must be executed now.

The drug problem is closely linked to the peace and order situation. Drug users are responsible for almost 75 percent of all violent crimes in the country. They kill around 800 people and commit around 18,000 thefts a year. Who knows how many kidnappers or how many rapists are drug dependents as well?

Drug traffickers are to blame for the heinous crimes committed in our country. They deserve no mercy, and I believe the Filipino people would thank President Macapagal-Arroyo if she orders the immediate execution of drug traffickers whose convictions have already been upheld by the Supreme Court.

Please don't get me wrong. I am no bloodthirsty person. I value the sanctity of human life, of justice, of law. That is why we have to stand our ground against something as evil as the drug menace and all the murders and rapes it has caused, for something as noble as justice for an innocent victim, and on something as inviolable as the rule of law.

As author of the law reimposing the penalty of death for all heinous crimes, I say, "If we are not going to follow the intent of the death penalty law, then we might as well scrap it." But if we really want to be taken seriously by criminals and potential criminals, we must carry out the law no matter what.

Former President Joseph Estrada made a mistake when he started granting reprieves and commuting the death sentences of rapist-killers and drug traffickers (Josefina Paras, for example) even if most of the drug traffickers in death row were caught red-handed.

People need to believe in the justice system. This administration wants to show the people that the government is serious about fighting crime and upholding the law. It must send a clear signal to all drug traffickers and bear down hard on the illegal drug trade, and there is no better way to do that than to start executing those clogging up death row. —**ERNESTO F. HERRERA, chair, Citizens DrugWatch Foundation**

Water sources should be secured

CEBU Rep. Antonio Cuenco caught my attention when he raised the possibility that terrorist groups sympathetic to the cause of the world's most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, could poison the sources of our water supply in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

Cuenco's concern is valid and should be taken seriously by the military and police agencies because such a scenario is not remote. The terrorist groups could poison the sources of water supply of people in the country if only to show their support for the cause of Bin Laden.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police should protect the sources of drinking water nationwide. The water supply is vital to the survival of our nation and therefore, its sources must be strictly secured by the military and police forces.

But while the military and the police go about their duty of securing the water sources nationwide, it is imperative for our people to actively participate in guarding water reservoirs all around the country.—**ALEX P. MANARANG, 129 Kaliraya St., Quezon City**

Rotten tomato by any other name

PART of the advertisement of Crew Development Corp. (PDI, 10/15/01, Page C2), a supposed socially responsible mining company based in Canada and operating its subsidiary, Crew Minerals Philippines, read: "Not all tomatoes are rotten! Not all mining companies destroy the environment!"

The advertisement leaves a bitter taste in the mouth in most of us who have been opposing its bid to open a strip mining operation in the central highlands of Mindoro, including its proposed disposal of submarine tailings in the Tablas Strait.

For three years now, this company has been wooing our people to believe in the alleged bounty that its operation would bring to the island. But this is just one side of the coin. The other side points to an environmental disaster.

The company has entertained local officials and brought media people to the supposed example of the best "tomato" in the mining industry. Yet it has forgotten to bring them even to the nearest island, which could show how rotten a tomato can get.

Three years of disinformation is enough. A rotten tomato, even if you mix it with good tomatoes, cannot be eaten. How much more the waste, as in the Marinduque mining disaster, that the company could bring upon us?

There are carpetbaggers who wish to exploit our resources at the expense of our environment and our future. They will always paint a rosy picture of themselves and will cover up the truth every time.—**EFREN ESPIRITU GARCELLANO, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro**

PPSTA a big disappointment to members

THE BOARD of directors (most of them overstaying) of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association has just dealt its more than 275,000 members another severe blow when it suspended the grant of loans since the last week of September 2001.

Earlier, the PPSTA board made a cruel move when it drastically lowered the amount of loan that could be borrowed from P10,000 to P5,000.

These teachers do not really want to be in debt. They find it difficult to pay the monthly amortization. But their salary which is still below the poverty line and the spiraling cost of basic necessities force them to apply for the loan.

Because of financial difficulties, the PPSTA teacher-members had hoped that their national organization could extend to them financial assistance. It is discouraging to see the PPSTA board failing the teachers. They are disgusted with the sudden suspension of loans.

Now, these teachers cannot be blamed for wondering if the board's decision was due to the financial status of the PPSTA brought about by the multimillion-peso irregularities that have rocked the 69-year-old association.

It is indeed high time that something is done to protect the hard-earned monthly contributions of teacher-members to their organization. It is also imperative that the PPSTA board of directors be prevented from wreaking havoc on the funds of the biggest professional organization in the country.—**EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO, president, Quezon City Public School Teachers Association, 3rd Floor, Schools Division Office, Kamuning, Quezon City**

SSS owns a third of Makati building

THIS refers to the column of Conrado Banal III last Oct. 11, 2001 where he stated that the "...SSS also invested in a huge building project of Philamlife in Makati, and it now owns half of it, probably half of which is also empty."

We wish to make the following clarifications:

1. The Social Security System owns about 30 percent of the space in Philamlife Tower, not half of it.

2. The SSS space in Philamlife Tower is 90 percent leased out and not "half empty." The SSS tenants are multinational companies requiring top-quality office spaces.

3. Among the new Grade "A" international quality buildings in Makati, Philamlife Tower is considered the most successful in leasing. It has the highest lease take-up rate and currently commands the highest lease rental rates.—**DANILO E. IGNACIO, president, Philam Properties, 9th Floor, Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Fighting the wrong people

MY name is Rapunzel Acop, and I am the daughter of Gen. Reynaldo Acop who is being accused of drug trafficking. In the absence of any dissenting opinion over my father's guilt, I would like to be the first to defend him. I would like to say how I feel and what I think about this mess.

First, I feel sad and terribly disillusioned. I am very close to my father and I know how much he loves his job. He missed my birth and some subsequent birthdays. He missed seeing me grow up. He sacrificed a lot for me because of his fight against crime. He believed that if he could succeed in his fight against crime, he would have succeeded in being a good father.

It's sad, then, to hear all of these accusations being hurled against him. After all that he has done, this is what he gets.

Second, I feel frustrated. Frustrated because my own school seems to have passed judgment on him already. For what is our Philosophy classes, then, if we don't even use our critical faculties?

I share the desire to search for the truth. The truth is not out there, however. It's right here, right now. The truth is, narco-politics is a threat. Drugs is a problem. But the method of addressing it is severely flawed.

If you think that you are stopping drugs by accusing my father, who has probably been the most effective narcotics director in history, who is the only officer who has caused the dismissal of the PNP chief himself for coddling a drug lord, who has jailed more than 30 foreign nationals for drug trafficking, then you are wrong.

I don't have any witnesses or pieces of evidence. I only have myself—my reputation of being a good student—as proof. I don't have a dollar account. I don't have a laptop. I don't even have a driver. I am not the daughter of a drug lord, and you are fighting the wrong people.—**RAPUNZEL ACOP, 16 Lt. Alfabeto Jr. St., Camp Crame, Quezon City**

Erap, lawyers are all actors

IF I were to forget for a while what deposed President Joseph Estrada did to our country, I would have been moved by your editorial cartoon last Oct. 3, showing him unshod. But aware of his being an actor, I know he is playing his "role" as an accused, to the hilt. For he is seeking the people's sympathy.

And his lawyers? Oh, they have also become "instant actors." They are adept at concocting excuses for their non-appearance at their client's hearing. Alexander Pope aptly said that "an excuse is worse and more terrible than a lie; for an excuse is a lie guarded."

When then, will the people's quest for truth be fulfilled in the Estrada plunder case? Well, I agree with George Herbert that, "God's mill grinds slow, but sure."—**ADELFA L. ETRUISTE, E. Glinoga St., Barangay Castillo, Pitogo, Quezon**

Summit on the economy is crucial

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia, Jr. is not one to paint a negative scenario of the country's economic situation. In the past years, the public has heard nothing from him but his optimistic economic programs. To hear him invite all political leaders from all parties to a summit to discuss the ongoing crisis only shows how bad the economic situation is right now. This time, even the ever-optimistic Speaker is alarmed.

But De Venecia is correct. Now is the time for all political leaders to cross party lines and do something about the pressing problem of the ordinary folks; of the numerous companies now on the brink of collapse and of the thousands of employees who got laid off because of global recession.—**SEVERINO PACIS, 937 A. Bonifacio Ave., Quezon City**

Licensing requirements set by law

THIS is an answer to the letter of Alfredo Cruz, which was published on Oct. 15.

There is no truth to the claim of Cruz that 10 irrelevant and duplicative requirements are imposed by the Business Permits and Licensing Office. Based on the nature of the business to be operated, there are several requirements to be complied with.

It is unfortunate that Cruz did not identity the employee from the Assessors Office who exacted from him goodwill money and kickbacks so we could discipline the employee.

The requirements and clearances from other local offices and agencies of government are imposed by laws or ordinances, not by the Business Permits and Licensing Office. We cannot follow the old practice of dispensing with the required clearances, especially those that involve security of the public, for the sake of increasing revenue collection, for we may experience another Ozone or Manor Hotel incident.

There is absolutely no irregularity, unnecessary delay and red tape at the Business Permits and Licensing Office of Quezon City. We facilitate the issuance of business permits without putting in jeopardy the safety and security of the public transacting business or patronizing commercial establishments.

Incidentally, the address Cruz gave is occupied by an electronic repair shop. No one named Alfredo Cruz resides or does business at the address.—**PACIFICO F. MAGHACOT JR., assistant city administrator for general affairs and officer in charge, Business Permits and Licensing Office, Quezon City**

Violation of tenets of journalism

THE MEDIA are supposed to inform the public and their information should be factual and unbiased. When TV announcers, for example, resort to sensationalism in reporting an incident or an issue or inject bias and disinformation, they violate the tenets of responsible journalism.

A case in point was the recent flu scare. When it was first reported that an unusually high number of schoolchildren in two or three schools suffered from dizziness, fever, coughing, etc., some TV announcers insinuated that the "epidemic and outbreak of flu-like symptoms were caused by biological or germ warfare waged by terrorists." This was the idea that they gave the public. Promptly, frantic telephone calls were made by an alarmed public and texting of exaggerated messages followed.

When Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit was interviewed on TV, he gave assurances that the government had already sent epidemiologists to the scene and would shortly submit a report on their findings. He also cautioned the announcers to refrain from using terms that would unduly alarm the public and cause panic. Still, they insisted on using terms, like "epidemic" and "outbreak."

Despite Dayrit's assurances of prompt government action, the announcers insinuated that the government was not doing enough to deal with the situation. It was disconcerting to note a young announcer in a TV program apparently relishing the idea of having a terrorist attack or a full-blown flu epidemic. Fortunately, the elder announcer applied the brakes. Shortly after dishing out disinformation, the program conducted a survey among people in the street. Not surprisingly, the majority of those interviewed suspected a terrorist act and concluded that the government was not doing enough to deal with the situation.

The following day another TV announcer on the same channel took the government to task because the epidemiologists who inspected several schools (including public schools) stayed for 10 minutes and interviewed only the school administrators.

The media should reflect on this incident and correct this tendency to sensationalize on the part of so-called professionals.—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City**

'Artista'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A UNICEF survey conducted this year asked young Asians aged 9 to 17 who they admired most. In the Philippines, guess who came out first? Yup, Nanay, with 30 percent of the respondents naming her.

Oh well, some of you may be shrugging your shoulders, Tatay probably came in a close second. Sorry, dads, but the second most admired person for the Filipino youth was an actor or actress, named by 17 percent of the respondents. After an *artista* you finally get Tatay, cited by 14 percent of the respondents.

Our *artista* worship is unparalleled. The Unicef survey reports that regionally, only 5 percent of Asian youths named an actor or actress as the person they admired most. Our figure of 17 percent was the highest, with all the other countries reporting only single-digit figures.

Maybe, you might argue, other countries don't have a large movie industry. Nope. Thailand and South Korea, which churn out movies as rapidly as we do, only had 2 percent of their youth naming an actor or actress. Hong Kong, which also has a very active movie industry, reported a figure of 5 percent.

But wait, if we look at the Unicef figures again, we find that in many Asian countries music groups and singers are also popular. The admiration of singers is highest in China (16 percent), Vietnam (15 percent), Hong Kong and Mongolia (13 percent). In the Philippines, only 5 percent of our youth named singers as the people they most admired.

Actually, I wouldn't fret as much if more young people admired singers. Singers and musicians at least have talents that are worth emulating. Acting, too, is a talent, but I'm not sure it deserves the level of admiration our youth are bestowing—especially when you consider how terribly untalented many of our actors and actresses are.

I can only speculate on the reasons for the demigod status of our *artista*. There is the element of fantasy in cinema and really, there is nothing wrong with that—the movies are there to entertain. The problems arise when the distinction between fantasy and reality begins to dissolve, and we know, from our political experience, that this has happened in the Philippines. We've elected actors and actresses to govern the country, thinking that the heroic roles they played on the silver screen would translate into national salvation in the real world. We've learned (have we?) that this is not the case, that silver screen heroes can be top-notch heels and scoundrels in real life.

For young people, the gray area between fantasy and reality is not so much in the political realm. Think of the time when we were younger, much younger. Be honest, all of us did admire, to some extent, actors and actresses. For very young people, that worship often takes the form of wanting to have one of those actors and actresses as a Kuya, Ate—or Tatay or Nanay. Somehow, these silver-screen figures seemed strong yet caring, they never lost their tempers, they could do no wrong.

My hypothesis then is that the weaker parental bonds are, the stronger the tendency to fantasize about surrogate parents. Remember this is all hypothetical and I'm hoping our social scientists can do more research to find out what is going on, and to consider the possibilities that there is a growing distance between Filipino parents and children, a void which ends up being filled by actors and actresses.

The growing distance between parents and children doesn't spring from a lack of caring. It's a very real but imposed geographical separation, of parents having to work away from home, often many thousands of miles away, for several years at a time. With the absent parent, it should not be surprising that young people seek refuge in the world of the *artista*.

Perhaps we just lack role models other than parents. Another survey conducted last year asked Filipino children who their heroes were, and many named Japanese animé cartoon characters!

But it's not accidental that actors and actresses end up as new role models. Actors and actresses represent the good life, "good" being equated with physical appearances and with material possessions. People cash in on the young's *artista* worship. Companies stumble over each other trying to get actors and actresses to endorse products aiming for the youth market. The advertisements say it all: Use our cell phone and you too can be like our young actors and actresses.

To keep these actors and actresses in their influential roles as salespeople, there is a whole industry that has emerged, pouring in all their energies to the glorification of this homespun aristocracy. Chronicling the lives of these new gods and goddesses—what they eat, what brands their clothes and shoes are, all the way up to who they're sleeping with—has become a major preoccupation for young people. All this is itself good business—the talk shows, movie magazines and product endorsements ringing up cash registers.

So who should be guiding the young to help them to be more discerning about our *artista*? Well, if Tatay is losing out to actors and actresses in terms of influence, while Nanay has been forced to work overseas, who is going to be doing this advising? I have a feeling, a terrible feeling, we will have more actors and actresses running the country at least for another generation.

* * *

UGAT, the Anthropology Association of the Philippines, is holding its annual convention from Sunday, Oct. 21 to Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the UP Diliman. This year's convention will be an occasion for listening to an older generation of accomplished anthropologists, including E. A. Manuel, Prospero Covar and William Longacre. The convention will deal with a wide range of topics from national development to household budgeting dynamics. For more information, call 456-1918.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Venezuela protests unfair comparison

VENEZUELA was a proud host to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. during the celebration of our National Day.

It is with utmost sadness that I must emphatically protest the context in which my country was mentioned in an article titled "GMA foreign control leaves DFA in shambles" last Oct. 15. The implications of the article are unjustified and incompatible with the objectivity which is a requisite of journalism in the Philippines or in any country with the inestimable privilege of enjoying freedom of the press.

I am prevented by self-respect from speculating on what motivated such a display of gratuitous hostility and consider the matter closed.—**MILENA SANTANA-RAMIREZ, ambassador, Embassy of Venezuela**

NEW CASE

Ani orders new tax credit probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OMBUDSMAN'S office said it has ordered a formal investigation of a new complaint of graft from the finance department against a former finance undersecretary and four others in connection with the P5.3-billion tax credit certificates (TCCs) scam during the Ramos administration.

If probable cause is established, the officials would be charged with plunder, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told reporters yesterday.

The Department of Finance, which submitted the complaint early this year, said it "is the one that would pin down the finance officials and owners of the textile firms which benefited from the scam."

Ernesto Hiansen, director of the DOF One-stop-shop division that issues TCCs, told reporters the new complaint was different from the one earlier investigated and resolved by the Ombudsman.

"This is the case that tackles the root cause of the problem," he said.

No effect

Desierto said the preliminary investigation of the new complaint would have no effect on the complaint for graft filed by his office against former finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena and others with the Sandiganbayan last year.

"This is a different case," he said.

Aside from the ranking ex-finance officials, Desierto also included as respondents 21 corporations, including 12 textile companies owned by ethnic Chinese business people Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe.

The five are former finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena, executive director Uldarico Andutan Jr., deputy executive director Raul de Vera, and tax specialists Rowena Malonzo and Brandy Marzan Sr.

All five are no longer with the finance department.

Desierto said the Ombudsman's fact-finding and investigation bureau (FFIB) had established a prima facie case against the respondents.

Probable cause

"There is probable cause that the respondents caused undue injury to the government in the amount of P3.6 billion, which could have been paid in taxes to the government," Desierto said.

According to the FFIB findings, the TCCs had been falsified and that most of the companies listed by Chingkoe were nonexistent.

"Most of the textile firms were not actually operating when the TCCs were issued to them," he said.

Hiansen submitted yesterday to Desierto five boxes of evidence.

He explained that the P5.3 billion figure referred to the value of 1,600 TCCs issued to 64 firms from 1995 to 1998.

The FFIB, however, found that only 21 of the 64 firms (representing P3.6 billion worth of TCCs) illegally benefited from the tax exemptions.

Hiansen explained that the original complaint dealt with the transfer of the TCCs to unqualified firms.

"This new complaint deals with the issuance of the TCCs to their original applicants," he added.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Executive Order 38, has reorganized Task Force 156, which was created by the Estrada administration to investigate the TCC scam. The task force is headed by Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho. Its members are the finance and justice undersecretaries and the director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The TCC scam concerns the illegal issuance of tax credits and duty drawbacks, which are refund repayments made by the government on duties and taxes paid by export enterprises.

Dismissed

Last August, the Sandiganbayan 4th division dismissed 62 graft cases filed against Belicena and the others in connection with the scam. One of the cases involved the P690-million Petron tax credit scam.

In a surprise ruling on Aug. 20, 4th division chair Narciso Nario said he was dismissing the cases because the Ombudsman's office had failed to submit the results of its reinvestigation.

Nario said he had been waiting for the past one year and four months for the Ombudsman to say if there was sufficient cause to indict.

Saying the court could not wait any longer, Nario dropped the tax cases, explaining that further delay would have violated the rights of the accused to a speedy trial.

The court ordered a reinvestigation of the tax cases on April 28, 2000, after the accused filed a motion for reinvestigation.

The accused cited the presence of new evidence in asking for a reinvestigation.

Desierto, denying the court's claim that there was no evidence against the accused, has filed a motion for reconsideration, which is still pending.

Ships, planes secure Malampaya oil wells

By Martin P. Marfil

MILITARY planes and ships have been mobilized to secure the Malampaya wells as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes announced yesterday that the government would be restricting the movement of ships and planes in the area to ensure its safety and prevent disruption of production.

The move, he said in a press statement, was in line with Proclamation No. 72 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 10 and which declared several areas in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-To-Power Project as a "special security zone."

Navy vessels and units of the Air Force "had made their presence" felt in the region since mid-September, the defense department said in a statement.

In the proclamation, "certain waters, submerged lands and foreshore areas in the immediate vicinity" of the project would be reserved as a special "safety and exclusion" zones.

Ros Manlangit, chief of the DND's office of public affairs, said that the "safety zone" would include areas in Palawan, Mindoro and Batangas while the "exclusion zone" would cover the immediate vicinity of the platform.

In the "exclusion zone," government would prohibit the entry of vessels and flying of aircraft below 500 feet within one kilometer of the platform and buoys, which are located within the area.

Those who would want to do so would be required to get prior authorization from both the defense and energy departments.

Also prohibited would be the use explosives, sub-sea activities, and all other activities, which may pose potential risk to the project infrastructure and to public safety.

In the much-larger "safety zone," government would ban trawl and other fishing methods which involve the use of weights, anchors and similar devices on the seabed, anchoring, use of explosives, drilling and construction or installation of submarine pipelines or cable.

The defense department said that prior authorization would also be required before these are done.

The defense department said that the site is the single largest investment in the history of Philippine business with a total private investment of $4.8 billion.

The area is known to have recoverable reserves of 3.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 118 million barrels of condensate with additional volumes of oil, estimated at 200 million barrels of which 30 million barrels are estimated to be recoverable.

Gloria directs accident rescue

By Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Like a true commander-in-chief President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday directed top Bicol police, military and civilian officials in the rescue of the injured passengers as a Manila-bound train rammed a passenger bus.

As the scene unfolded, traffic on both sides of the track backed up as far as one kilometer along the Maharlika Highway, the busiest road in Albay province.

Three passengers of an AMDG bus bound for Naga City were seriously injured. Twenty others suffered minor injuries.

President Macapagal was returning to the Legazpi City airport from Sorsogon City in the blue and white presidential helicopter when she saw the accident in Barangay Travesia in Guinobatan, Albay.

She made a few passes over the accident area before directing to the scene Armed Force Southern Luzon commander Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya and Bicol regional police director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang and a handful of other junior police and military officers.

Both military and police brass shunned interviews with the media as they went on with their tasks.

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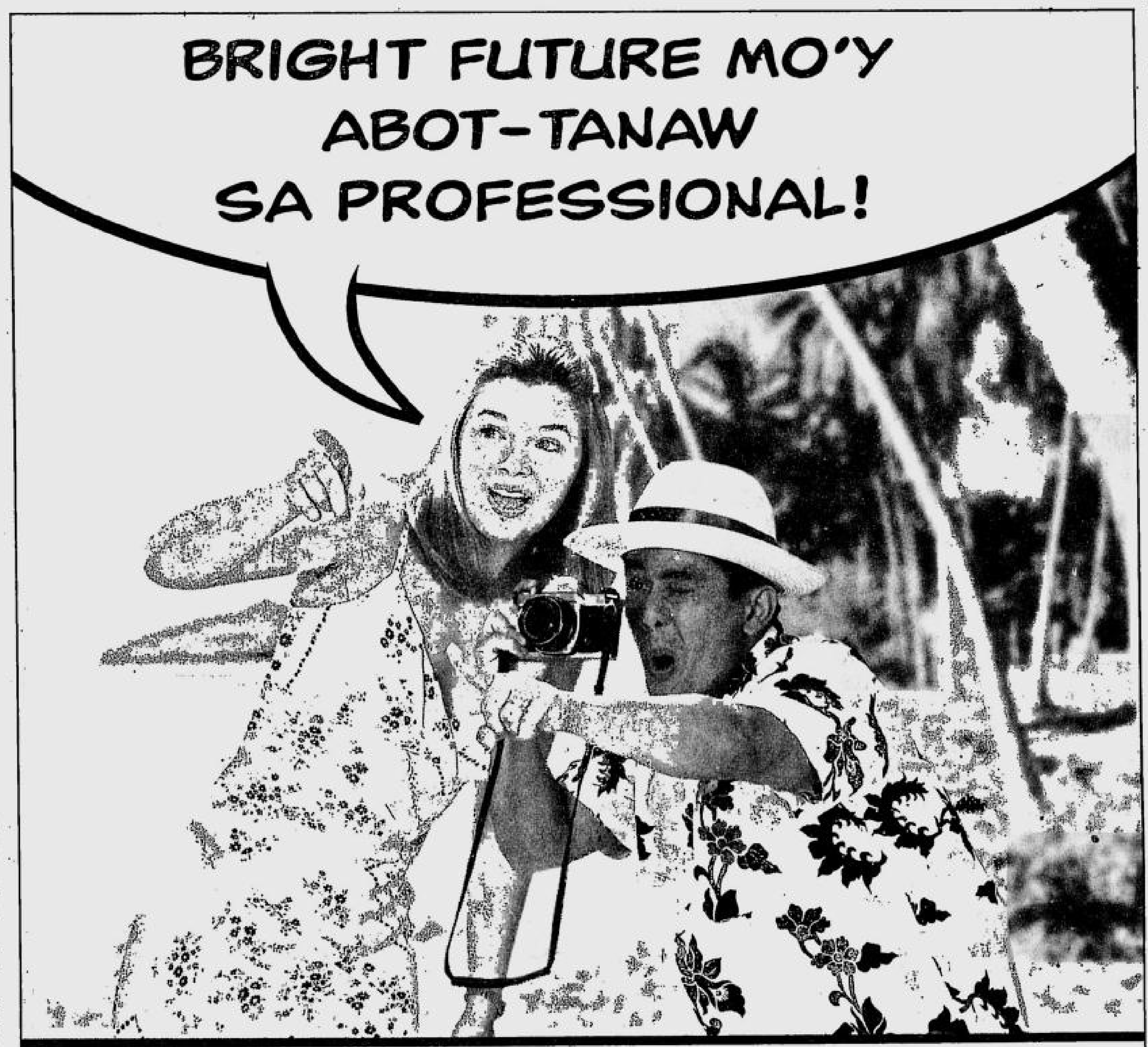
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Israeli tourism minister shot dead

Radical PLO faction says shooting was revenge for killing of its leader

JERUSALEM—Israel's ultranationalist tourism minister, Rehavam Zeevi, was killed Wednesday in a shooting ambush in a Jerusalem hotel in what a militant Palestinian group said was its revenge for the killing of their leader by Israel.

The gunmen ambushed Zeevi, 75, on the eighth floor of Jerusalem's Hyatt Hotel, at the entrance to his room, and shot him three times at close range in the head and throat, police said. His wife found him lying in the corridor in serious condition.

Zeevi died at 10 a.m., about three hours after the attack, said Prof. Shmuel Shapira, the deputy director of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

"A few minutes ago, after prolonged efforts to revive him . . . the doctors saw that all hope had totally ended," Shapira told a news conference.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction, said Wednesday's shooting came as revenge for the killing of its leader, Mustafa Zibri, who died Aug. 27 in a targeted Israeli rocket attack. Israel has said Zibri, widely known as Abu Ali Mustafa, was involved in bombing attacks on Israelis.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "has to know that

Palestinian blood is not cheap and that those who target the leaders of the Palestinian people are not safe from being targeted and assassinated themselves," said a PFLP leaflet sent to news agencies.

Sharon called together Cabinet ministers for urgent consultations. The attack on Zeevi came during a period of relative calm, with Israel and the Palestinians trying to shore up a shaky Sept. 26 truce. It was expected that in a first step, Israel would revoke several truce gestures, such as the easing of the blockade of Palestinian towns.

There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian Authority.

Zeevi was among seven ultranationalists who pulled out of Sharon's coalition government on Monday. Their resignation was to take effect Wednesday.

Despite his position, Zeevi rarely commented on tourism and was known for his hardline positions against the Palestinians. He has called for the "transfer" of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He sparked controversy in July for referring to Palestinians working and living illegally in Israel as "lice" and a "cancer."

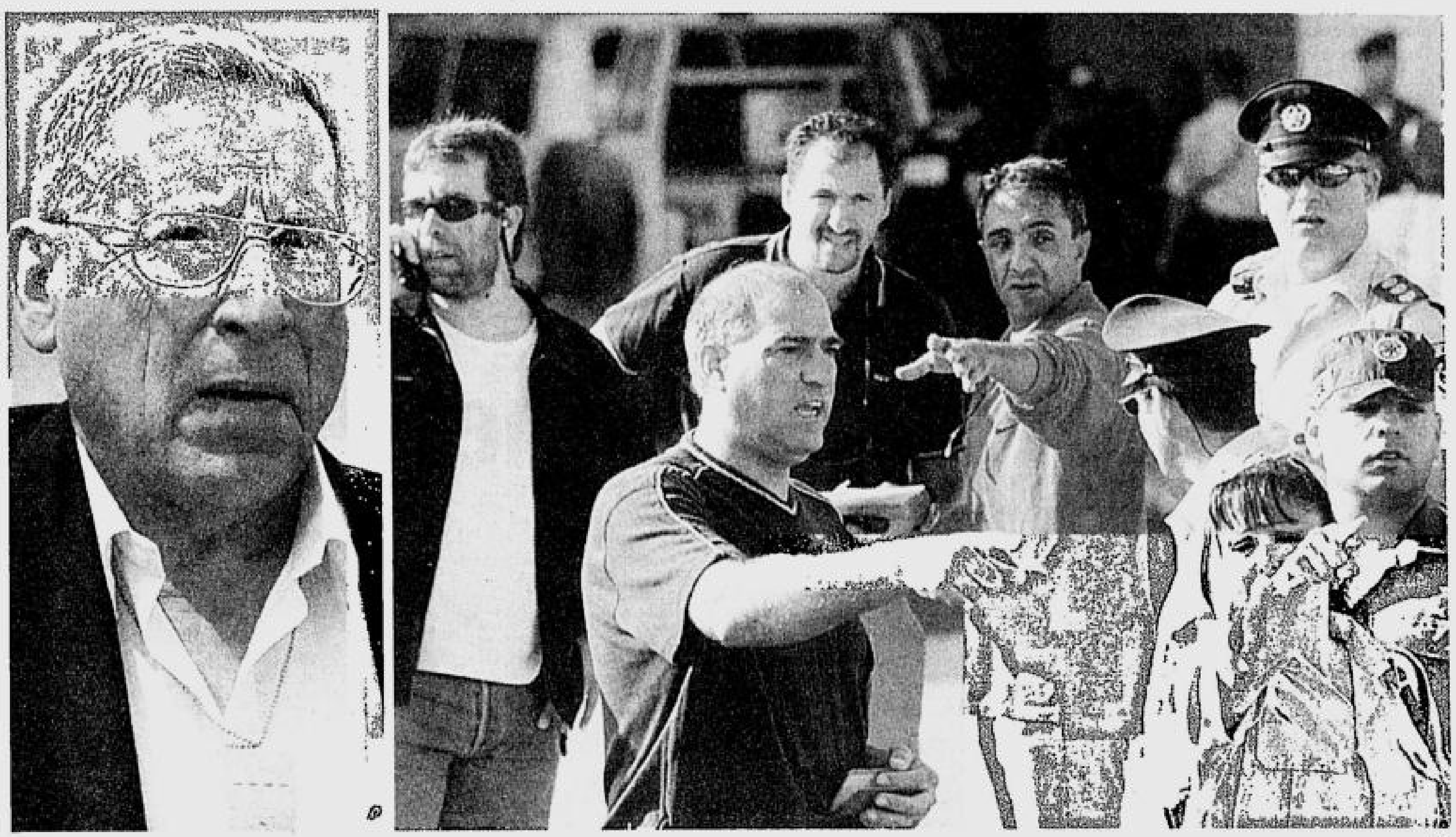
Of Israel's 6.5 million citizens, more than 1 million are Arabs. In addition, Zeevi said, about 180,000 Palestinians were living in Israel illegally.

Zeevi and other members of the National Union, a bloc of two small parties, said Monday they were leaving Sharon's government because they were opposed to the easing of tough security restrictions on the movements of Palestinians.

The move underlined the deep split among Israelis over how to deal with the Palestinians after a year of violence.

The exit of the National Union does not endanger Sharon's coalition government, which still commands a solid majority of 76 out of the 120 members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament. But Sharon, a hardliner, now becomes more dependent on the moderate Labor Party.

Zeevi is a retired srmy general who fought in Israel's 1948 war of independence, the 1956 Sinai campaign, and the 1967 Mideast war. *AP*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ISRAELI police and investigators are seen in front of Hyatt hotel in east Jerusalem following the shooting of Israel's Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi (left photo).

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Apec host dreams of becoming world-class city

SHANGHAI, China—Zhuang Yongchen remembers Shanghai when it teemed with foreign and Chinese merchants and financiers, all feverishly trying to make their fortunes under the watchful eye of British gunboats.

"Shanghai was heaven for the adventurous," Zhuang, then a bank clerk fresh out of high school, recalls. "All types did business here: foreigners, Chinese capitalists, police, gangsters, prostitutes."

A half century later, the city once known as the Paris of the Orient—and the Whore of Asia—is looking increasingly like its former self.

Billions of investment dollars have seeded a glittering skyline overlooking one of the world's busiest ports. Pricey boutiques sell Paris and New York fashions. Foreigners and Chinese flock to night clubs in a sleepless city where drugs and sex are openly sold.

Having shaken off decades of communist-imposed neglect, China's largest city is now hungry to overtake Tokyo and Hong Kong and reclaim its place as Asia's commercial and financial center.

It is looking to the visit here by US President George W. Bush and other Pacific rim leaders for a summit this weekend as a chance to showcase its decade of heady economic growth.

The Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington are expected to replace trade at the top of the agenda of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and Shanghai will deploy more than 10,000 police officers and restrict flights over the city to ensure the event isn't marred by terrorism.

Shanghai rose to prominence in the 19th century as a foreign-controlled haven for European and American merchants smuggling guns and opium. It was the birthplace of China's industrial revolution. Its financial district, the Bund, boasted Asia's first skyscrapers.

The Bund's skyline and neoclassical façades have been overshadowed by more than 1,000 new high-rises during the booming 1990s. The construction spree knocked down hundreds of blocks of maze-like old neighborhoods. Plans are afoot to build a 1,445-foot skyscraper, the world's tallest.

Sitting at the mouth of the Yangtze River, gateway to China's vast interior, Shanghai has re-emerged as a global manufacturing hub, making everything from microchips to jetliners.

Shanghai's 13 million people are just one percent of China's population but make one-twelfth of its industrial goods. More than $94 billion in foreign investment has poured in since China reopened for business in the 1980s.

Investors still face hurdles such as China's lack of a corruption-free legal system. But people here describe a city charged with enough energy and sense of destiny to propel it back into the top ranks.

"Globalization has given us another golden opportunity," said Lu Hongjun, director of the Shanghai Institute of International Finance, a government think-tank. "Give us 20 years."

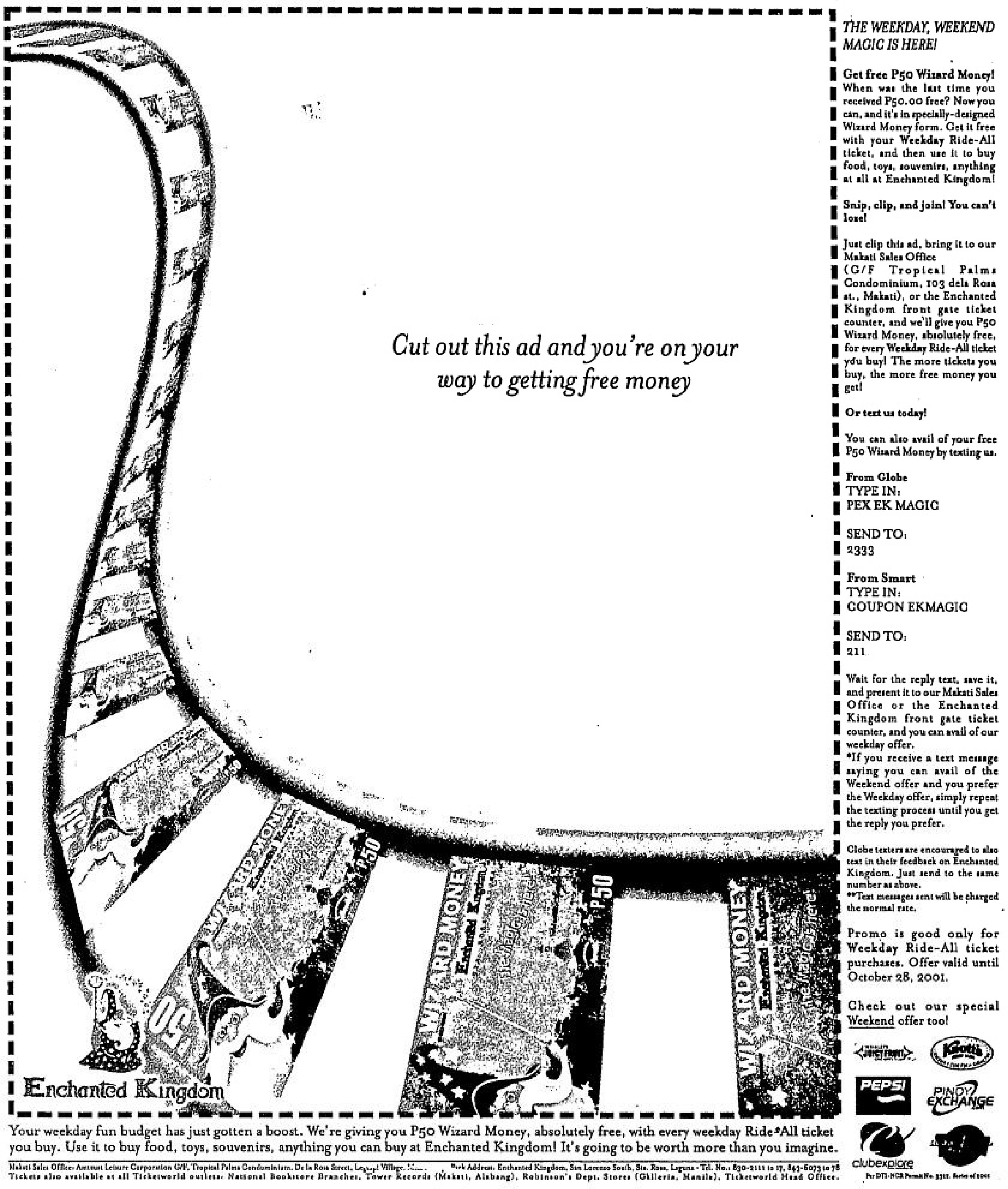
The rise of the Shanghai Stock Exchange is emblematic of how far Shanghai has to go—and the unique history that seems to drive it forward.

Lack of oversight and shady manipulation schemes have kept the exchange from becoming a major player in the global economy. The value of all listed companies is $360 billion, just one-tenth that of Tokyo's stock market.

But the exchange, China's largest, only reopened in 1990. Before the communists shut it down in 1950, it had a trading volume greater than Tokyo or even Paris. "Shanghai's past makes its dreams credible," said Ma Qiang, chief researcher at the Shanghai branch of the People's Bank of China, the central bank.

Zhuang, now 72, remembers a Shanghai unrivaled in opulence and vice. As a teenager after World War II, he danced the foxtrot and tango at jazz clubs that stayed crowded until dawn. Streets were lined with red lanterns advertising some of Shanghai's 10,000 brothels. Sickly sweet odors rose from dimly lit opium dens.

Today, the drug of choice is Ecstasy, the music hip-hop and rave. Prostitutes lurk in the bars of five-star hotels, or in brothels thinly disguised as beauty salons. *AP*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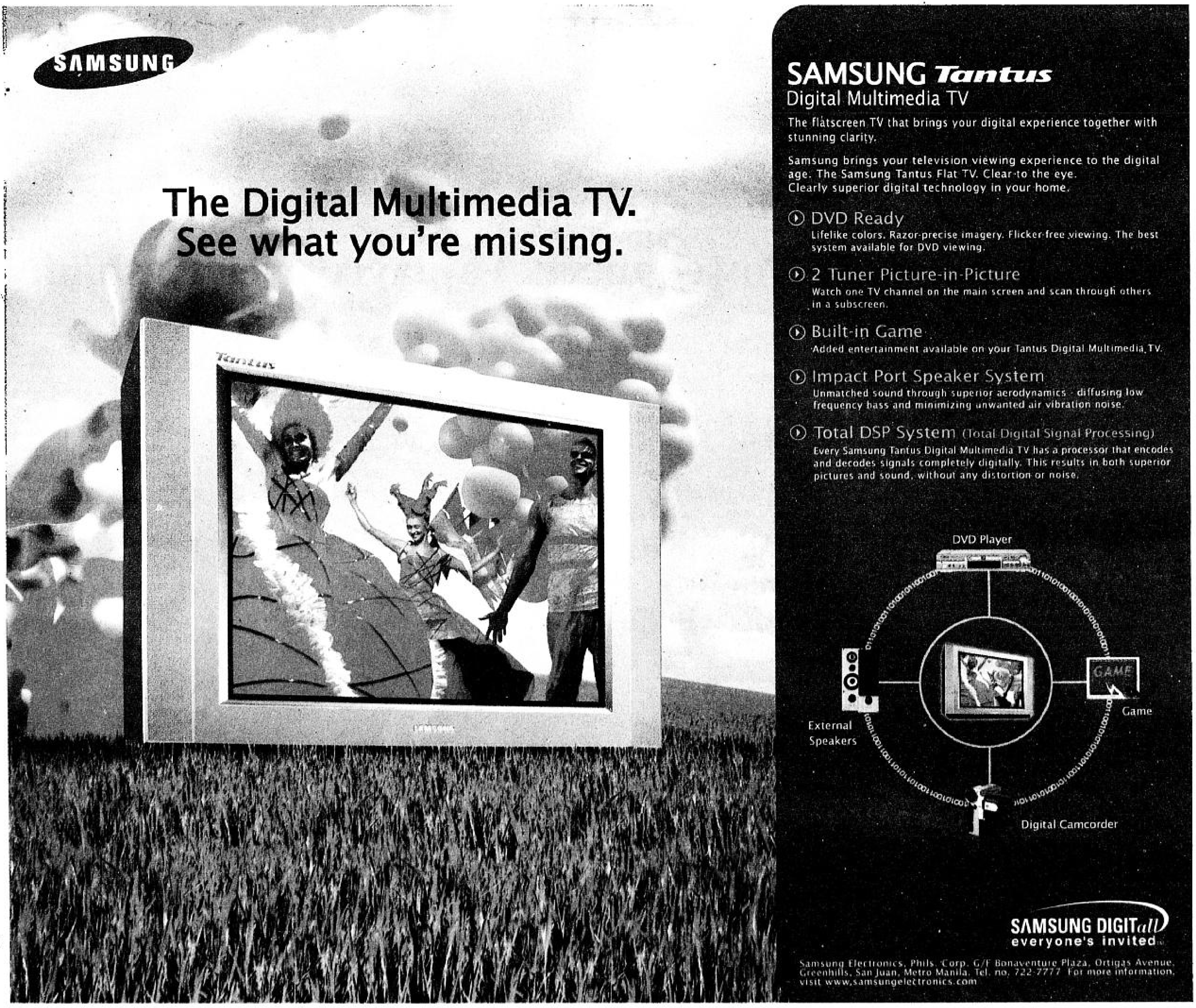

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FBI probes similarities of anthrax cases

WASHINGTON—A letter mailed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle contained a potent form of anthrax that appeared to be the work of experts, the senator and other officials said. Hundreds of people took precautionary doses of antibiotics.

The FBI was investigating similarities in handwriting and threats between the spore-spiked letter sent to Daschle in Washington and a letter containing anthrax sent to NBC in New York.

Investigators have found that the strain of anthrax on the letter mailed to Daschle's office was "a very potent form of anthrax that clearly was produced by someone who knew what he or she was doing," the majority leader said Tuesday.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, who attended a closed-door briefing on the subject, said the strain found in the letter to Daschle was "very refined, very pure," making it more dangerous.

Three government sources, all speaking on condition of anonymity, said preliminary testing indicated the anthrax had been refined enough so that it could be easily dispersed through the air. Early testing indicates that the anthrax from Daschle's letter is a purified form that could be used as a weapon, a law enforcement official, said Tuesday night, speaking on condition of anonymity. Additional testing was being done late Tuesday.

In Florida, Ernesto Blanco lay ill in a hospital with the inhalation form of anthrax, less than two weeks after a co-worker died of the same illness.

Also Tuesday, police said a letter addressed to a Planned Parenthood in Florida tested positive for anthrax in a preliminary screening but was being retested because the first test was not conclusive. Police said the letter had not been opened and that no one was exposed.

Three Florida abortion clinics received suspicious letters Monday, but no preliminary tests were done on them. About 110 abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood facilities nationwide received such letters, and postal officials were warned to look out for letters to clinics that name the US Secret Service in Atlanta in the return address.

In New York, headquarters for many of the nation's high-profile news media corporations, officials said they expected full recoveries for two people infected with a less lethal form of the disease. They included an NBC news employee and the 7-month-old son of an ABC producer. *AP*

Politicians, warlords try to forge united front

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Afghan politicians, fighters from the hills, the elderly ex-king's men and even some dissident Taliban are all meeting this weekend, under pressure from Pakistan and the United States, to try to agree on a broad-based, multiethnic government to replace the hardline Taliban regime.

The fear in Washington, Islamabad and other capitals is that the US-led military campaign might topple the Taliban before the opposition can agree on the makeup of a new government. That, in turn, could plunge the country into even deeper anarchy.

"The political process needs to be placed on a fast track in order to forestall the possibility of a political vacuum," Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf warned Tuesday after a meeting with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

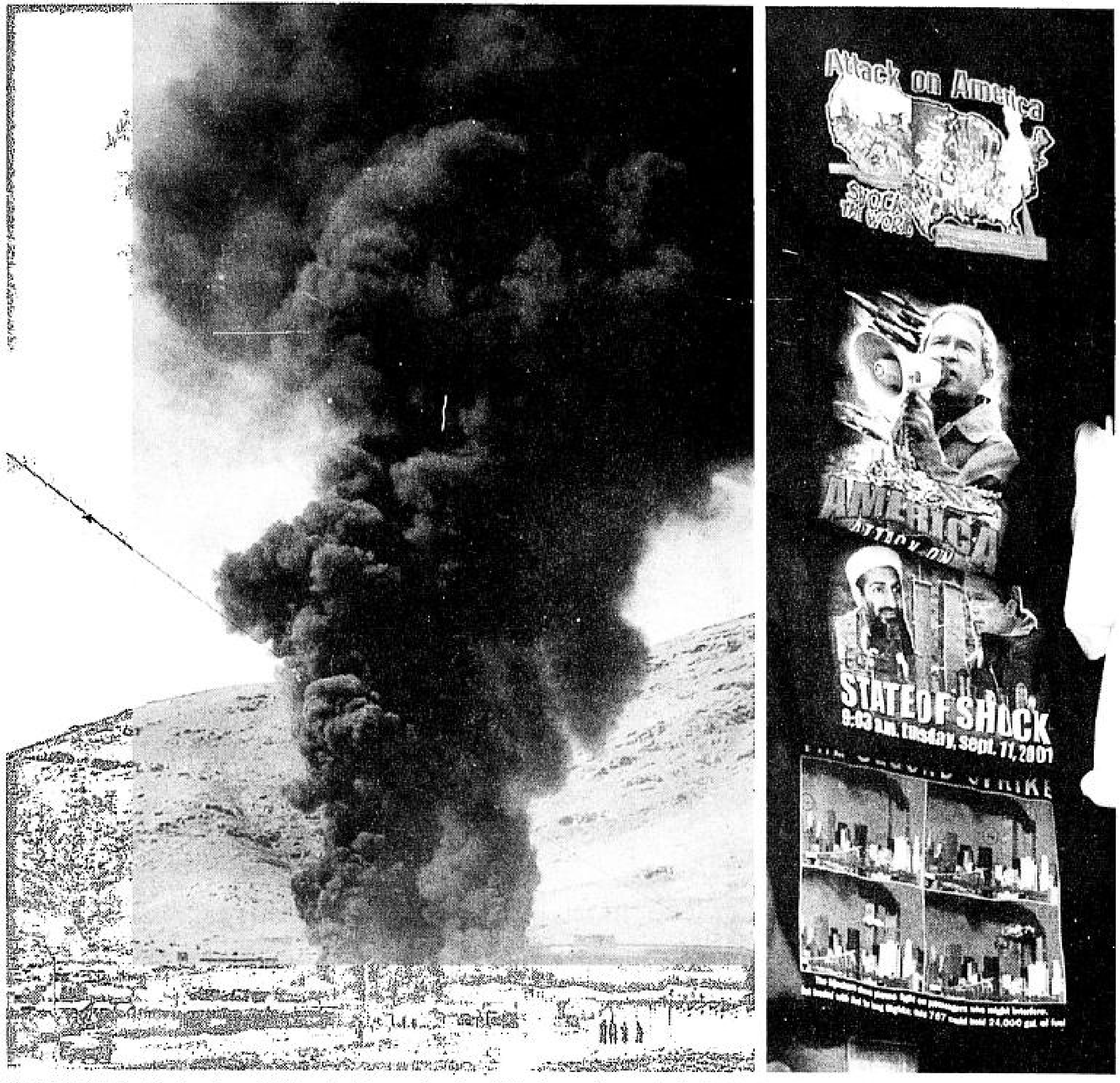
"It should not lag behind the fast-moving events in the military field, nor should any attempt be made by any warring faction to impose itself on Afghanistan in the wake of the military strikes against the Taliban."

Among the proposals for organizing a new government is one calling for the 87-year-old former king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, to convene a grand council of all political groups to map out the future administration of the country.

That formula has been endorsed by the United States, Pakistan, Britain and other Western powers.

Afghans who favor that option will gather Saturday in the border city of Peshawar to try to agree on a list of participants for the grand council, or loya jirga.

They would include leaders of the majority Pashtun tribes, representatives of the opposition Northern Alliance, allies of the exiled monarch and any of the Taliban willing to accept that the militant Islamic movement can no longer rule alone. *AP*



SMOKE (left photo) rises from a Taliban fuel dump after air raids in the northern suburb of Kabul on Oct. 17 while a Hong Kong vendor enjoys brisk sales of T-shirts (right photo). The T-shirts, some made in Thailand, are sold for 50 Hong Kong dollars. REUTERS, AP

European Union widens money-laundering law

LUXEMBOURG—The European Union tightened its money-laundering rules Tuesday to combat terrorism and moved to strengthen airport and airplane security.

The EU also said European airlines could expect compensation for business lost after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States—but not as much as they have requested.

The 15 EU governments said they planned to compensate airlines for four days of business they lost when the United States closed its airspace after the attacks. Airlines asked to be reimbursed for business losses of 10 days, but officials said the governments considered that excessive.

The EU also refused to extend coverage for terrorism and war risks beyond Nov. 30, despite appeals from European airlines that want such relief for at least another six months to help them cope with vastly increased insurance premiums.

To make air travel safer, EU officials agreed to tougher checks of luggage and passengers and limits on what can be taken aboard planes.

The EU finance ministers widened a ban on money laundering by applying it to funds earned or used in all serious crimes, not just the illegal drug trade.

They also increased the obligation of lawyers, bankers, accountants, art dealers, gem traders and casino operators to alert governments about dubious transactions involving their customers.

"We call on the rest of the world—including offshore centers—to implement regulations requiring institutions to report suspicious assets," said Gordon Brown, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer. "We should stand shoulder to shoulder to root out the financial lifeblood of terrorism."

Meeting in Luxembourg, finance and justice ministers discussed freezing the assets of terrorists, reinforcing security measures, instituting a European arrest warrant and accelerating the extradition of terrorists.

There was no final agreement on those issues, and French Justice Minister Marylise Lebranchu said the EU had to move quickly. "It is important to get all national legislation in force," she told reporters.

In seeking compensation for at least 10 days of lost business, airlines said the US aid package of $15 billion would give American carriers an unfair advantage by allowing them to cut fares.

EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio termed aid for American carriers "predatory behavior" that led to "unfair competition from US carriers."

But Dutch Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm said the finance ministers were not ready to go beyond allowing governments to compensate airlines for four days.

Officials said the European Commission, which enforces EU competition rules, will not block government aid designed to rescue national air carriers.

On Wednesday, the commission is expected to approve a one-month credit of $114 million that Belgium wants to give Sabena, which is on the brink of bankruptcy.

France said Monday it plans to make $278 million available to cover costs of heightening aviation security and aiding French airlines. The package must be cleared by EU competition authorities.

"We are not going to allow the airline industry in Europe to collapse," de Palacio said. "We are going to support it . . . without distorting the market."

Some European carriers, including Germany's Lufthansa, have objected to using any state aid to rescue rivals, calling it unfair to those who aren't getting bailouts.

"Companies that have a bad economic record will be rewarded with free money and those which have tried to manage their businesses as well as possible would be punished," said Finnair spokesperson Christer Haglund. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 18, 2001
St. Luke, Evangelist

1st Reading: 2 Tim 4:10-17
Gospel: Lk 10:1-9

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'"

Commentary

A minister is one who serves. Every Christian is called to serve. Jesus sends his first disciples to heal and to proclaim the kingdom. In Jesus' time, disease was believed to be the work of demons. What is the meaning of healing in this age of advanced science, medicine, and health care? The mission of Jesus from the Father is salvation. Salvation is the healing answer of Jesus to our wounded human condition. It is a term used for several biblical words meaning safety, ease, soundness or well-being. We are safe only in the kingdom. We experience ease and growth only with a spiritual healing, the great blessing of the gospel of salvation.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Impropriety in conduct of judge—As stated in Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, a judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities. A judge is not only required to be impartial; he must also appear to be impartial. Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by irresponsible or improper conduct of judges. Viewed vis-à-vis the factual landscape of this case, it is clear that respondent judge violated Rule 1.02 as well as Canon 2, Rule 2.01 and Canon 3. Well-known is the judicial norm that "judges should not only be impartial but should also appear impartial." Jurisprudence repeatedly teaches that litigants are entitled to nothing less than the cold neutrality of an impartial judge. The other elements of due process, like notice and hearing, would become meaningless if the ultimate decision is rendered by a partial or biased judge. Judges must not only render just, correct and impartial decisions, but must do so in a manner free of any suspicion as to their fairness, impartiality and integrity. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Dela Cruz v. Bersamira, A.M. No. RTJ-00-1567, January 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Powell meets Vajpayee over Kashmir

NEW DELHI—With tensions running high in Kashmir after two days of fighting, US Secretary of State Colin Powell is urging India and Pakistan to reopen a dialogue on the decades-old issue.

Powell discussed the subject during a meeting Tuesday night with Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and planned to raise it with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Wednesday.

Powell told a news conference Tuesday in Islamabad after meeting with Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf that "the beginning of a dialogue is the most important thing that is needed now."

Powell spoke as Pakistani and Indian forces exchanged gunfire in the region for a second day. Monday's battle featured the heaviest mortar and rocket fire of the year.

The Indian Asaid the shelling was punishment for Pakistan's alleged help for Islamic militants fighting to separate the Himalayan province from India.

"The Army will act very decisively with no holds barred," Defense Minister George Fernandes said. "India will be ruthless in dealing with infiltrators and the kind of methods used by them, like laying of mines, killings . . . getting into suicidal exercises."

Fernandes said Indian soldiers killed 30 militants who tried to cross a ceasefire line that separates the Pakistani—and Indian-controlled portions of Kashmir. Pakistan accused Indian forces of killing a woman and injuring 25 other civilians.

Pakistan says India is denying the predominantly Muslim region the right to self-determinations.

India refuses to accept outside involvement in efforts to resolve the dispute, and Powell refrained from any offer to mediate.

But he pleased Pakistan by saying that a key to an accommodation is a recognition that the "aspirations" of the Kashmiri people must be accommodated.

"We certainly do not agree with this premise," foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said. "There should be no confusion between cause and effect. The present situation in Kashmir is a consequence of state-sponsored terrorism and is not the cause." *AP*

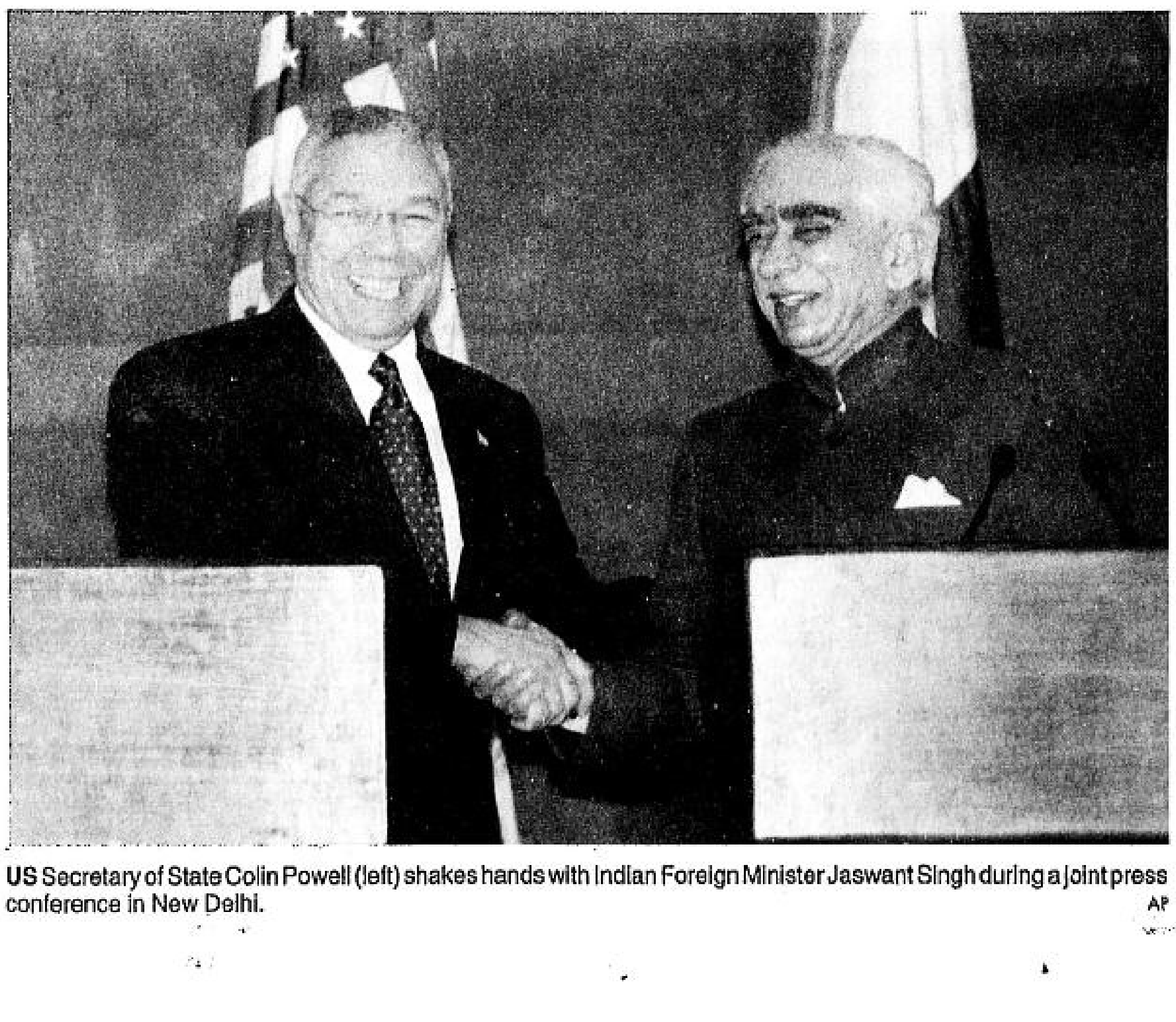
Pakistan's nuke arms worry India

NEW DELHI—For India, the worst possible fallout from US-led strikes on Afghanistan would be an Islamic fundamentalist takeover in Pakistan, placing nuclear weapons in radical hands.

This week, the heaviest firing in 10 months across the ceasefire line between the two countries was a reminder of the tension between the longtime foes, which both tested nuclear weapons three years ago.

It's believed the Pakistani government has clear control over its nuclear weapons. But Indians worry that this could change because some members of Pakistan's military, and many of the country's Muslim militants, oppose the government's cooperation with US strikes in Afghanistan.

"There are reasons to be concerned if there were to be a coup d'etat or the military government were destabilized," said Shannon Kile, a researcher at the Stockholm Institute for Peace Research in Sweden. He said any change in who controls Pakistan's nuclear weapons could be dangerous. *AP*



US Secretary of State Colin Powell (left) shakes hands with Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh during a joint press conference in New Delhi. AP

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/18/01

ROUNDUP

Arraignment postponed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A regional trial court judge here has moved to Oct. 23 the arraignment of 35 Chinese fishermen charged with illegal entry and violation of the Fisheries Code. Lawyer Jose Bayani Usman, who took over as counsel for the Chinese only last week, filed a motion for postponement at the Regional Trial Court Branch 52 "in order for him to study the case carefully." The Chinese, who claimed they did not plan to enter Philippine territory, were caught on Sept. 22 in two separate operations in Rizal and Balabac towns.
Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

War on phone snatching

LEGAZPI CITY—Newly installed Legazpi City chief of police Supt. Romeo Mapalo said he would strengthen the drive against robbery and snatching by fielding plainclothes policemen in strategic places here. Mapalo said cell phone snatching is now considered one of their headaches as he noted reports of almost daily cellular phone snatchings here victimizing mostly students and women. He appealed to cell phone users not to use their phones while riding in public vehicles, walking down the street, or in a crowded place.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Children in mining

LEGAZPI CITY—A Department of Labor study said most casualties in the mining industry here were caused by exposure to toxic chemicals and oppressive working conditions. A 12-year-old boy identified only as Gilbert works at the ball mill of an illegal mine in Barangay Luklukan Sur, Paracale, Camarines Norte, handling mercury with bare hands while his feet are immersed in sludge and muck. He earns P1,896 a month which help make ends meet for his family. His parents tolerate his work because of poverty.
Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Major security threat

DAVAO CITY—The resurgence of communist rebellion continues to be a major security threat in Southern Mindanao, forcing the military and police in the region to train their eyes and guns on the New Peoples' Army. Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, said NPA rebels have lately been operating actively in the Davao areas. "We are ready for any eventuality. We have the situation under control," Matillano said. On Friday, military and police officials met to draw up strategic plans that would counter NPA propaganda and activities.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hub for illegal drugs

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said this city is fast becoming the province's hub for illegal drugs as pushers have transformed it into a haven. He said that from here, drug dealers bring their products to other areas including Davao City. Piñol urged authorities to intensify their anti-drug operations. He said he does not want people to take the law into their own hands by launching an anti-drug campaign similar to the one that involved vigilantes in Davao City. Suspected vigilantes there have killed at least nine suspected pushers.
Rosa May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Protest vs wage hikes

MATI, Davao Oriental—Employers in the province said they would oppose any wage increase this year, citing the recent economic downturn as the main reason for their protest. Edgardo Lopez, president of the Davao Oriental Eastern Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the INQUIRER that they have expressed their strong opposition to imposing a new round of wage increases. They said they may reconsider after they recover from the crisis. The militant Bayan Muna said it would continue to press for the proposed P125 legislated wage hike, saying the businessmen's claim that they were losing has no basis. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

P40M for infra

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways is allocating P40 million for various infrastructure projects in Mindanao to spur inter-regional economic activities on the island. Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong discussed at a recent meeting with Mindanao businessmen a plan to build a railway system that would connect the cities of Cotabato, Davao, the Caraga Region and Northern Mindanao. Engr. Ramon Allado, president of the Southern Philippines Construction Core Group, said the proposed Mindanao railway system could boost the island's economy through the faster and freer movement of goods and services. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Farmers say they won't benefit from GMO crops

MARAMAG, Bukidnon—Some 200 farmers in Mindanao gathered at the Central Mindanao University and vowed to continue the protest against the field testing of BT-corn, a genetically-modified crop.

Farmers belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, Masipag, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and other militant groups formed an alliance to conduct a massive information drive in Mindanao on the ill-effects of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs).

On Tuesday, the country celebrated the World Food Day. Militant groups said there was nothing to celebrate because 80 percent of Filipino families are not able to eat three times a day, according to a survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

The farmers claimed that they who produce food are the ones who have very little to eat.

Poldo Guilaran, Masipag national president, said instead of the government supporting local food production, it promotes the production of high-value crops for export.

This practice, he said, is causing widespread land and land-use conversions that render the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) inutile.

Thousands of hectares of land once devoted to agriculture are being converted into subdivisions, industrial parks and sites for commercial purposes.

"Today, the government is supporting the genetically-modified organisms being promoted by transnational companies that are already monopolizing (worldwide) agriculture. The supporters include the agriculture department. (The support continues) despite (these agencies being aware) of the dangers posed by (GMOs) on our health, environment and (on) the entire country," Guilaran said.

Engr. Robert Versola, secretary general of the anti-GMO group Philippine Greens, claimed that Third World countries have become the dumping ground of GMO food being rejected in Europe.

Protests are also widespread in Europe against GMOs.

Versola named popular baby-food products and other food products as having GMO components. He also accused Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor of turning his back from his earlier stand against GMOs.

"Now, he is not doing something to stop this and that is pretty much seen as (a) trade-off (for) his being a Cabinet member," Versola said.

Vice Mayor Leandro Catarata of Valencia City told the INQUIRER that the city has an existing ordinance imposing a moratorium on the testing of Bt-corn and other GMO-laced products for five years.

Still, Catarata called on the national government to lead the movement against GMOs.

The militant farmers said food security is not attained through the promotion of GMOs, high-value commercial crops and importation, but through the government implementing sincere and fundamental changes in farming and farm ownership in the rural areas.

The government, the farmers said, must also support genuine agrarian reform. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFTER THE KIDNAPPINGS

Resort to host first Ms Earth pageant

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—After a slump in the tourism industry caused by the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping in Dos Palmas, it's all systems go for the first Ms Earth beauty pageant here.

Carousel Productions, the pageant's producer, has again chosen Dos Palmas to be the venue for its swimsuit competition. Last year, the same competition for the Ms Asia-Pacific was held on the posh island resort.

The resort's owners also offered a three-day, two-night package at a special price of P6,500 in line with the Ms Earth pageant.

Located just an hour's boat ride from the provincial capital of Puerto Princesa City, Dos Palmas is hosting the swimsuit competition on Saturday, Oct. 20.

The resort made a commitment to host the Ms Earth swimsuit competition following its successful hosting of the Ms Asia-Pacific swimsuit competition last year. The Ms Earth beauty pageant is being sponsored by the local government of Palawan.

More than 50 candidates from different countries will be in this city for the talent show today.

The talent show will be open to the public at the Palawan-Puerto Princesa City Sports Complex while the swimsuit competition will be an exclusive affair at the Dos Palmas where tickets are sold for P500 and P800.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes said this is one of the more aggressive tourism campaigns the province is undertaking to regain what it lost due to the kidnappings.

Tourism is the province's second income-generating industry before the bandits attacked.

He added that the staging of Ms Earth in the province is also an indication that Palawan is still a safe place to visit.

"The purpose of Ms Earth is to promote awareness of environmental concerns," said Peachy Veneracion, vice president and project director of the pageant's producers.

People who will watch the talent show will be searched and cell phones and other electronic gadgets would be scrutinized as part of tighter security measures.

Guests who will stay in Dos Palmas will have a choice of staying in fully-furnished cottages built on stilts over waters surrounding the island, or amid landscaped gardens that boast of more than 150 varieties of plants.

The special package will also entitle resort guests to use all land recreational facilities available on the island and various beach gear like snorkeling equipment and kayaks.

Iloilo seeks more teachers

ILOILO CITY—The province of Iloilo is in dire need of teachers in both elementary and secondary levels.

"I have already made representations with Education Secretary Raul Roco for the allocation of 200 teacher positions in the province to help us meet the growing demand for quality education, especially in (the) rural areas," said Gov. Niel Tupas.

By addressing the lack of teachers, he said the provincial government can propel development in the countryside.

But board member Celia Capadosa, chair of the committee on education, said the province does not only need 200 teachers.

"Based on the data we have gathered from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, we actually need almost 900 more teachers," she said.

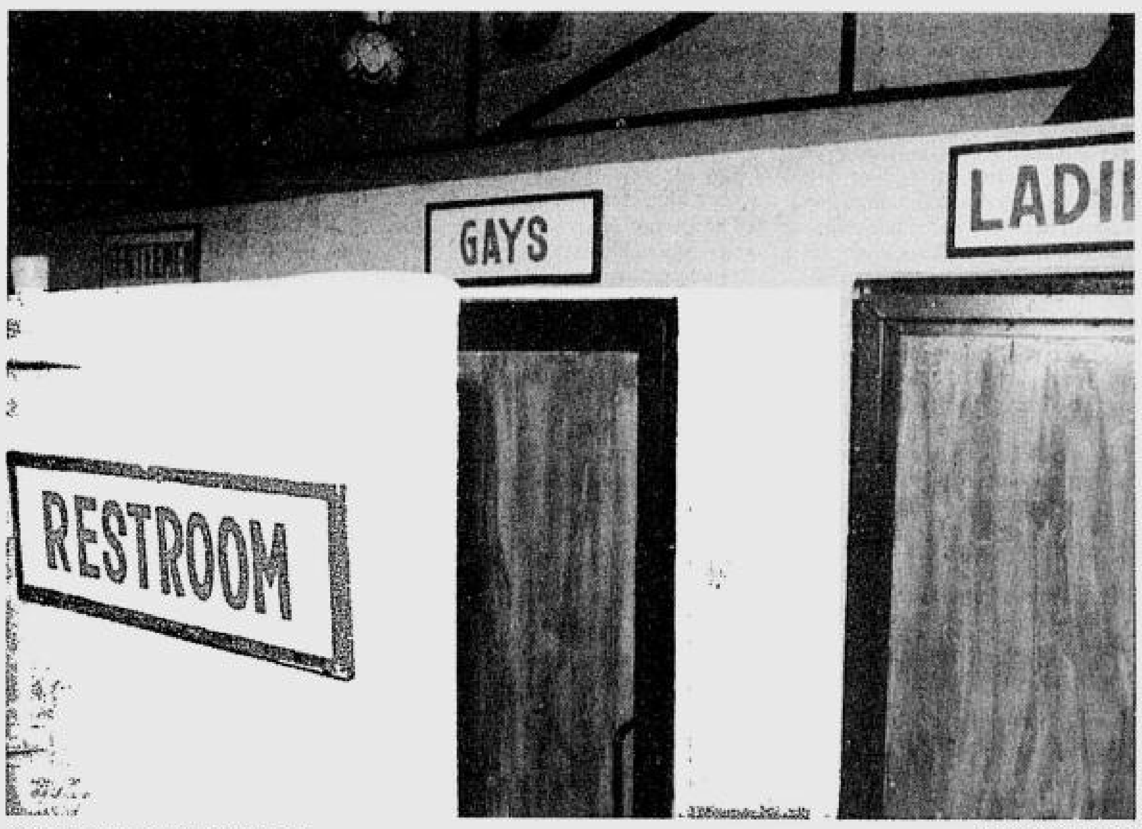
She said 576 new teachers are needed for national high schools in the province and 312 in the elementary school level.

"It is fortunate that Governor Tupas has taken this up with Secretary Roco. At least there is hope . . .," she said.

Capadosa is a chemical engineer by profession who spent many years teaching at the Western Institute of Technology in La Paz, Iloilo City.

She said the lack of teachers has given the province a 1:60 teacher-student ratio.

"This is too far from the ideal, which is 1:30 or 1:35," she said. *Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*



TOOTS SOBERANO

GENDER SENSITIVE

A restroom in a San Fernando, La Union restaurant provides space for the so-called third sex, a sign of a growing sensitivity toward gays in the country.

Gov defies critics, will buy cheap medicines through DTI program

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Amid objections, Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas said he would proceed with his plan to import cheap medicines from India for distribution to poor patients in the province.

"It will not be long before we can make available these cheap medicines through our district hospitals and rural health units," Tupas told reporters here.

Tupas said the provincial government has already started negotiations with the Department of Trade and Industry for Iloilo to be able to take part in the parallel importation of branded and yet cheap medicines from India.

"I have already taken this up with Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. I'm confident that he will grant our request," he said.

Objections were earlier raised against the provincial government's plan to purchase medicines from India for fear that these were substandard. But Tupas countered that DTI, with the help of the Department of Health, had given assurances that the cheap medicines that will reach the country are of high standard.

"If we can buy medicines at a low price, we will be able to serve many of our people," he said.

Initiated in coordination with the DOH, the DTI's "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya" seeks to make quality branded medicines available to the public at very affordable prices.

The provincial government earlier revealed that the first phase of the program would make available medicines for five commonly diagnosed diseases like asthma, diabetes, hypertension, pneumonia and other infections.

Tupas said that while he believed that local drug manufacturers ought to be supported by way of the people patronizing their products, the provincial government could not buy medicines from local producers because it does not have enough funds.

Only last week, Tupas announced that the province faced a P112-million budget deficit by the end of the year.

Tupas explained that the prices of these medicines are cheaper by as much as 70 percent compared to other drugs in the market.

Dr. Rolando Padilla, medical director of the Iloilo Doctors' Hospital, also said he was convinced that the province could buy medicines "from countries that are noted for higher standards in drugs-making like the United States, Japan, Korea, Germany, United Kingdom and even China."

Padilla said there were many local drug manufacturers that make good-quality medicines and the provincial government could help "boost the economy" by buying medicines from them.

"But the medicines from the countries Dr. Padilla mentioned are priced higher and beyond the reach of poor patients, especially those being served by district hospitals," Tupas said.

"The products made by local drug companies could also not compete with prices indicated in the offer made by the Philippine International Trading Corp. which is the DTI's importing agent," he added.

Iligan asks power office not to leave

ILIGAN CITY—It would be another big loss for this city if a plan of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) to transfer its Mindanao Regional Control Center (MRCC) to Cagayan de Oro City pushes through.

Cagayan de Oro City is the capital of Northern Mindanao of which Iligan City has become a part after its transfer from Central Mindanao.

Avelino Dawis, officer in charge of the Napocor's Transmission Co. Mindanao (TransCo Mindanao), said upon the effectivity of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act on Dec. 26, the newly created national transmission company will have separate operations from the Napocor.

Dawis said the plan to move the control center office in Barangay Ditucalan here would mean that most of the power firm's engineering and maintenance and dispatching load systems, its network and protection operations would be in a "better, strategic location."

Dawis said the transfer has nothing to do with concerns over the security of its installation or personnel.

But the Iligan City council plans to block any move to transfer the control center because the transfer, he said, could take away not only the "symbol of stability" of Iligan but also put serious doubts on the city's peace and order situation.

City officials will ask help from Vincent Perez, Napocor board chair and energy secretary, to stop the plan to relocate the Napocor office to Cagayan de Oro. *Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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5 ex-Isabela cops acquitted

SANTIAGO CITY—Five former city policemen, who were meted out double life terms each, were released from the national penitentiary on Friday after the Supreme Court's second division acquitted them of double murder charges.

Released from prison were Ruben Agustin, Wilfredo Leano, Ferdinand Marzan, Alexander Micu and Emilio Ramirez, all detainees at the National Bilibid Prisons (NBP).

In May 1999, the Regional Trial Court Branch 41 in Manila earlier sentenced them to two life terms each in connection with the killing of Elezer Tuliao, son of a former jueteng employee here, and Vicente Bauzon.

Gregorio Agalo-os, NBP superintendent, signed the release papers of the five former policemen after the Supreme Court's second division ordered their release on Oct. 9.

Former Santiago policeman Rodel Maderal, who was among the suspects charged with Tuliao's and Bauzon's murder, escaped before he was arraigned.

But National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Maderal later and detained him in Manila.

In May, Maderal turned state witness and tagged Santiago City Mayor Jose Miranda as the mastermind in the double murder. Maderal also implicated SPO3 Alberto Dalmacio, PO3 Romeo Ocon, Boyet de la Cruz and a certain Amado, all of this city, in the murder. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Anthrax scare hits RP: Letters send jitters

(From page A1)

But Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the letters, several of which were sent by a jittery public to the DOH in Manila, did not contain anthrax bacteria.

They were just letters asking the addressee to join its list of prominent subscribers.

Dayrit's message of assurance apparently did not yet reach Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials who decided to clear Building 229 even though the letters apparently did not even contain any powder, such as those found in the anthrax cases in the United States.

Precautions

SBMA officials said they were just taking precautions.

And a lot of precautions they took.

At least eight employees were isolated and asked to take a shower and undergo a disinfection process. They were also subjected to a series of medical examinations. The building was sprayed with the disinfectant Lysol. The "suspicious-looking" letters were taken to the Olongapo City police office by SBMA firemen in protective gear.

ANSBERT JOAQUIN/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

SUBIC'S fire department is in full protective gear as they bring an envelope suspected of containing anthrax to the crime lab on Wednesday.

In Naga City, residents were also turning over The Economist solicitation letters to authorities.

One letter was given to the local office of the National Bureau of Investigation for laboratory tests. But the NBI refused to open the letter until it got an endorsement from the addressee.

Naga Postmaster Roger Ablao said there were about 300 more such letters in the post office awaiting distribution. He turned over one letter to the city health office and it advised him that the letter had no powder.

Ablao said a friend of his, who received the same letter, told him that it was just an invitation to subscribe to The Economist. Apparently, he said, putting the names of prominent personalities with the name of the addressee was a marketing strategy to encourage subscriptions.

They encouraged panic to an uneasy public instead.

In Cebu, several such letters were forwarded to the DOH office in Central Visayas. The unwanted mail were wrapped in plastic bags and then delivered to the DOH.

In Iloilo, an alarmed addressee turned over a similar letter to the post office

Meanwhile in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, Edgardo Escaner received a letter postmarked from Oak Brook, Illinois, and was suspected to contain a powdery substance. Another letter containing some powder was also reported to have been sent to a resident in Kabankalan.

Both letters were sealed in plastic and sent to the DOH office in Manila for testing.

Advice from the President

President Macapagal-Arroyo sought to reassure the public and asked the people not to panic but instead take precautionary measures.

"If we get scared, we will be capitulating to the terrorists," Ms Macapagal said during a press conference in Cebu City yesterday.

And the DOH will likely get flooded with more "suspicious-looking" letters after the President herself encouraged people to be on the side of caution if they suspect their letters or packages might contain the anthrax bacteria.

"If you received suspicious parcels or letters, received a mail from somebody you do not know or you received a letter that contains powder, report it and send it immediately to the nearest Department of Health office for testing," Ms Macapagal said.

"If you got mail from a stranger, then get suspicious. If you got mail from an old friend and then you see powder inside, bring it right away to the nearest DOH office," she said.

She advised those who get exposed to suspected anthrax bacteria to take a shower for 15 minutes. According to her, the bacteria "take time to get into the pores."

Boast

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez boasted that Philippine health authorities are better equipped than the Americans to handle an anthrax bioterrorist attack.

"Our public health officers have more experience in anthrax than their counterparts in the US," he said, pointing out that the disease is found in farm animals here.

Despite the exposure of Filipinos to anthrax through their livestock, however, there has been no known human fatality for many, many years, Golez said.

The anthrax Golez was referring to is the cutaneous (skin) form which is a lot less fatal than the inhaled form of anthrax.

"*Sanay tayo diyan sa ganyang klaseng mga kaso ng* anthrax. *Hindi katulad sa US na ngayon ay gulat na gulat sila.* High school *pa lang ay napag-aaralan na natin 'yan* (We're used to such cases, unlike the Americans who were taken by surprise. Our people study that in high school)," he said.

But he did not say which high schools taught students about anthrax before the bioterrorism scare. ***Reports from Ansbert Joaquin, Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Debra Jane Magallon, Jhunnex Napallacan, Ma. Diosa Labiste and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Dona Pazzibugan***

Trade on agenda, terrorism on their minds

(From page A1)

Laden would not work.

"You sort of wipe off one generation of terrorist, a new generation emerges," Rafidah said. "Anybody can become a terrorist if they have enough reason."

With trade on the agenda and terrorism on their minds, the Apec foreign and trade ministers opened their 13th annual meeting to prepare for a weekend leaders' summit.

The leaders include US President George W. Bush, who will make his first overseas trip since the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington threw the world into crisis.

The ministers were working on a statement against terrorism, a draft of which is being pushed by the United States and which apparently makes no mention of Bin Laden or the bomb-and-missile attacks on Afghanistan.

The draft describes the Sept.11 attacks an assault on "Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies" and "a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation."

It is apparently intended to be vague enough to not aggravate tensions in Apec's Muslim members including Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, and Malaysia.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad have earlier assailed the military action on Afghanistan.

According to Minister Rafidah, the US-led military campaign will not do any good unless the roots of Middle East problems, including the Palestine-Israel conflict, are addressed.

"Clearly, we all feel that terrorism should be eradicated," she told reporters. "But it cannot be eradicated with the use of physical means like bombing sites because terrorism is a state of mind."

WTO talks

Some of the ministers said the suicide attacks in America had given fresh urgency to the call for a new round of talks at the World Trade Organization.

With fallout from the terrorism crisis further damaging an already weak global economy, the ministers said their fights on both fronts had become complementary in some ways.

"These crimes against humanity have galvanized many WTO members to action," said Chau Tak Hay, Hong Kong's secretary for trade and industry. "They have made us more determined to succeed and to go the extra mile in order to launch a new round."

US trade representative Robert Zoellick said he found "a strong spirit of determination to counter the acts of terrorism" as well as "an overwhelming sense of commitment" to launching new WTO talks next month in Doha, Qatar.

This will be the Geneva-based trade group's first attempt at starting new talks since its embarrassing failure two years ago in Seattle, where trade ministers found themselves hopelessly divided as anti-globalization activists raised a violent ruckus in the streets.

Despite strong words against terrorism, officials seem to be carefully avoiding an aggravation of sensitivities among Muslim member-nations of Apec.

They are also trying to avoid irritating the Chinese hosts, who would rather stick to Apec's official business of economic development, and to showcase the glittery financial hub of Shanghai.

"The Oriental pearl is shining more brightly in the new century," Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said.

Tang cited the "visible" economic fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks but did not mention America's military response.

The Apec ministers started the meeting without US Secretary of State Colin Powell, their top player.

Powell was due to arrive later after a crucial mission to Pakistan, an ally of the United States in the war on terrorism, and India, Pakistan's next-door rival.

Bush

The American president will seek strong support at the leaders' summit for the war on terrorism.

The trip will take Bush out of the United States for five days, but the White House said he would have no problem overseeing the war from afar.

"Telephones work," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

With the superb communications available to Bush, Fleischer said, "he will be in frequent contact with everybody he needs to be in contact with throughout."

Before leaving Washington Wednesday, Bush was briefing leaders of Congress at a White House breakfast. He will outline his China goals in a speech during a stop in California.

At the forum, he is scheduled to meet with the leaders of Russia, Japan, Malaysia, China, South Korea, Peru, Brunei and Singapore. He is set to return to the United States Monday afternoon.

America remained on high alert for new terror attacks, but White House officials dismissed questions about Bush's security at the Apec forum.

"The president has absolute faith in the Secret Service to secure his safety," Fleischer said. "Presidents before have traveled to places that were dangerous, and Shanghai certainly does not fit that description."

Air space has been restricted over Shanghai for the summit. As many as 10,000 police officers and security personnel were guarding the streets, and more than 100 road blocks were in place to screen people entering the city.

Some meetings at the forum were to be held in Shanghai's Jinmao building, the world's third tallest skyscraper.

Opportunity

Bush believes it is critical to promote trade at the meeting to help the struggling US economy, officials said.

"This is an opportunity to spur, through discussions with key leaders there, strong economic global recovery," said national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

If the draft is approved, the Apec leaders will wrap up Sunday with a statement saying they will "strive to prevent and suppress terrorist acts in the future, and express their strong support for all efforts aimed at strengthening (an) international anti-terrorist regime."

The measures Apec officials are discussing, at the urging of Washington, include cutting off terrorists' financial resources, cooperating on aviation security and keeping oil supplies stable, as well as standardizing customs procedures to better fight crime without unduly hindering trade.

Apec is pursuing its own long-term agenda of economic liberalization on the Pacific Rim, while seeking to provide impetus to the more immediate WTO talks.

Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said WTO members seemed much closer to agreement, although they had yet to resolve sticking points such as agricultural subsidies and the breadth of the next WTO agenda.

The members of Apec are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. ***Reports from AP***

ORETA

CAMACHO

OPLE

Blas O, Tessie O . . .

(From page A1)

Camacho assured the CA panel.

Oreta said that while she had no intention of bringing up the "poster issue," it was Ople who raised the issue before the CA.

"I have some photos in my possession that will prove that posters were really posted at Camacho's residence during the height of the impeachment trial," Oreta said.

Oreta said she attended Camacho's confirmation hearing to question him mainly on "his policies and his fitness, integrity and competence as finance secretary."

Nasty letter

Before he raised the poster issue, Ople took Camacho to task for a "nasty letter" he received from the secretary's mother, Leonarda, who chided the senator for saying that her son had "made reckless and irresponsible statements about the power bill."

Mrs. Camacho was reacting to a press statement that Ople issued on May 25 scoring Camacho for saying that "massive blackouts could hit the country by 2005 if Congress stalls in enacting into law the energy reform measure."

Mrs. Camacho said her son could not have made the statement "because my son is not a politician."

Ending her letter dated May 28, Mrs. Camacho warned Ople to "be careful next time you open your mouth."

"You might eat your words later," she wrote Ople.

Finding himself in a real predicament, Camacho could only answer Ople that he did not know that his mother had sent the letter.

After the hearing, Camacho approached Ople and apologized for the letter.

He did not say anything to Oreta.

"The world is round. Things you do or say against another person will haunt you and come back to you," Oreta said.

Ople hinted of tougher times ahead for Camacho when he said that he would question the finance secretary's "emotional balance."

As if the drubbing was not enough, Camacho got a ribbing from business reporters when a female reporter asked him: "Sir, does that mean we can also put up posters at home saying 'Camacho, mama's boy.'"

The query sent Camacho leaving the Senate in a huff.

The CA deferred the confirmation of Camacho as well as that of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit. They joined Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas in the list of Cabinet members who are rushing to be confirmed before the CA goes into a two-week recess next week.

Mikey takes up dare: He'll go to Kabul . . .

(From page A1)

them.

Arroyo, vice governor of Pampanga, said here yesterday that he was willing to be sent as a combatant to Afghanistan and fight the Taliban militia.

The young Arroyo said he had no experience in soldiering and was not a combatant "but if it is against terrorism and the President asks me, I'll do it."

"It's a war against terrorism . . . and we support the international coalition," he said.

The vice governor was reacting to the challenge posed by a leader of a militant group here to the President.

Julius Mariveles, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Negros Occidental, said that if the President decided to send Philippine troops to Afghanistan she should set an example by sending her own sons to the war-torn country.

The young Arroyo arrived here yesterday with his girlfriend, Angela Montenegro, to serve as one of the judges of the Miss MassKara Queen 2001 competition scheduled for last night.

Ms Macapagal, who also visited this city yesterday, was met by anti-war protestors belonging to Bayan.

The protestors, carrying anti-war placards, lined the road close to the Bacolod airport.

Another militant group, the Movement Against Aggression and For the Protection of Innocent Lives, called on the government not to intervene in the US-led attacks in Afghanistan, even as it condemned the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

MIKEY ARROYO

'Hello, Billy' doesn't amuse gay community

(From page A1)

justly portray(s) gays as scheming individuals who will soil a woman's reputation just to win the affection of another man."

"The ad is a disgrace not to the gay community but to PLDT because it demonstrates the company's insensitivity to the sentiments of its clientele," The Library Foundation said in a statement. "We really urge PLDT to hang up on Joey and pull out the ad, for its own sake."

The group also chided Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, which created the ad for PLDT, for stereotyping gays.

"Indeed, this latest 'Hello, Billy!' commercial is a fall from grace, not only for Joey but for PLDT and Ace Saatchi & Saatchi as well," it said.

The Inquirer sought comment from the advertising agency but was referred to PLDT.

Rene "Butch" Meily, vice president and special assistant to the PLDT president, said no offense had been intended in coming out with the ad.

"It has always been PLDT's policy not to discriminate against anyone," Meily said. "The 'Billy' ads are meant to be humorous. There is certainly no intention to disparage any group. The ads themselves contain no direct reference to anyone's sexual orientation."

Respect

The Library Foundation promotes the human rights of gay men and provides HIV/AIDS prevention services to men who have sex with men.

It also seeks to promote the acceptance of gay men, respect for their lives and an awareness of their continuing contribution to Philippine society.

"As gay men, we are deeply offended by the commercial's image of Filipino gay men . . ." the group said. "The 'Hello, Billy!' campaign has trivialized our attractions, made fun of our misery, and now, portrayed us as insecure persons who will even fight with women over men."

The Library Foundation said that when the Joey character was introduced in the commercial, the gay community was "equally amused and intrigued."

The group said it had closely followed the series of commercials that started with Billy, then in the United States, calling his mother in the Philippines to tell her about his girlfriend, Gracia.

"Joey set our 'gaydar' (gay radar) into full alert, especially with his reaction when he learned of Billy's new girlfriend," the group said.

It said its "amusement turned into disappointment" as the series of commercials—which started off with the "Gracia/*disgrasya*" line and then turned to Joey for its punch line—was released to the public.

The group said Joey's character had degenerated from being Billy's friend into "delusional bride" and, later, "hysterical admirer."

The latter, one of the more recent installments in the ad series, had Billy and Gracia flying to the Philippines and being met by Billy's mother at the airport. Joey was also seen at the airport, making a spectacle of himself.

Rumors

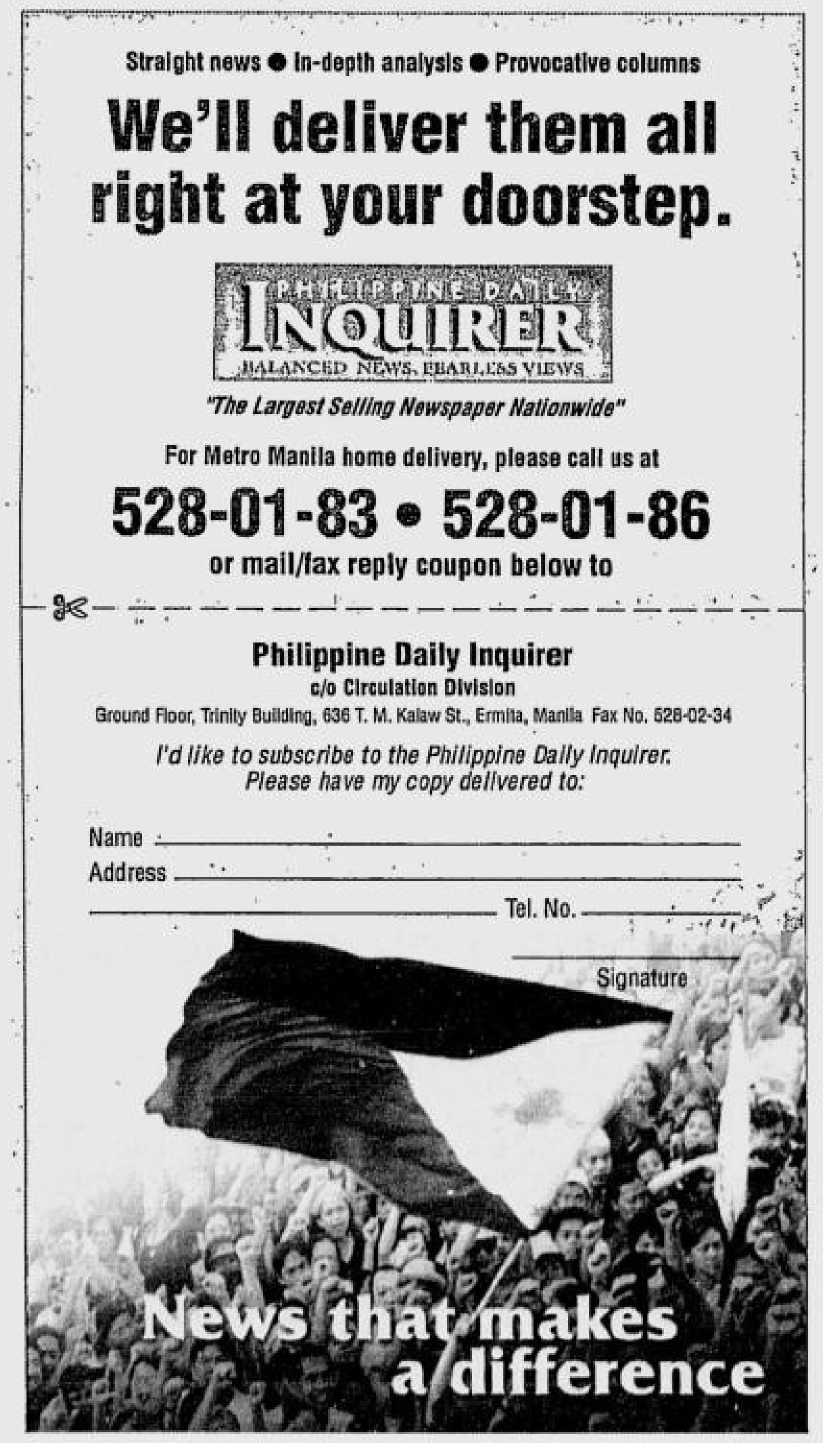
The latest installment has Billy confiding to Joey and wondering who has been spreading rumors about Gracia. Joey is claiming ignorance, but he wears a mischievous grin.

The Library Foundation said that PLDT, in an apparent effort to save the reputation of the model who plays Gracia, and who has been the subject of rumors herself, sacrificed the Joey character by portraying him as "a bitter gay man out for revenge over his (unrequited) love."

"We would like to remind PLDT that as it aims to link Filipinos to different parts of the country and the world, it need not marginalize gays and lesbians, who also struggle for convergence and envision a united Filipino society," the group said.

It said PLDT knew the intricacies of communication, including "text and subtext, overt and covert messages," and should recognize that commercials were "not merely about selling products . . . but creating images and changing people's consciousness."

"We urge PLDT to say goodbye to Joey and the latest 'Hello, Billy!' commercial," the group concluded. "We demand that this commercial be immediately discontinued and that PLDT publicly apologize to the Filipino gay and lesbian community for its unfair portrayal of homosexuals." ***With a report from Abigail Ho***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A CASUALTY of US strikes, according to Al-Jazeera, is a Red Cross warehouse near Kabul, Afghanistan. AP

Taliban seeks bombing break

(From page A1)

A Western intelligence source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Muttawakil met Friday, Saturday and again on Sunday with the chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency.

"Pakistan is interested in seeing moderate Taliban" figures in a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan, and Muttawakil is the most prominent candidate, the intelligence source said.

Since taking on the job of foreign minister more than one year ago, Muttawakil has had public disagreements with hardline elements of the Taliban, among them Justice Minister Mohammed Turabi who is virulently anti-American.

According to others within the Taliban regime, Bin Laden has gained increasing influence with the hardliners because the Taliban militia is relying more and more on his al-Qaida fighters in the fight against the opposition Northern Alliance.

"Arabs exert an influence on the government. Right now they are strong," said a senior Taliban official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing reprisal from the regime.

According to him, moderates within the Taliban are disgruntled.

"The people on whom the Arabs have influence will one day be finished. The Arabs came to Afghanistan under the name of jihad, but we ask now, 'Why are they still here?' I am sure they have their own plan, but what?" he said.

At a news conference following his meeting with Powell, Musharraf said a post-Taliban setup must include moderate elements of the Taliban to represent the country's majority Pashtun ethnic group.

"Certainly, there are a lot of moderate Talibans. Yes, I certainly believe so. Extremism is not in every Taliban," Musharraf said.

Powell said there was also room for the Taliban in an interim setup.

"You can get rid of this particular regime that has driven this country to such devastation and see whether those who used to be adherents of such a regime are now willing to participate in a different kind of government where the rights of all are respected and where it is accepted by the international community," Powell said.

Not abating

The US-led air campaign, now on its 11th day, showed no sign of abating.

In the latest attacks, US jets on Wednesday struck an oil dump at a Taliban garrison Wednesday in Kabul's Khair Khana district, setting off a huge fire. Air strikes on Kabul were continuing through the afternoon.

Residents could see air bursts toward the north of the city near the front line between Taliban and opposition forces. That suggested the Americans were going after Taliban troop concentrations there.

A Taliban official, Amir Khan Muttaqi, claimed US jets struck two trucks on Tuesday afternoon near Kandahar, killing seven civilians who were trying to escape the bombing. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The Taliban claimed 47 civilians had been killed in bombing in Kandahar over the past two days. The report could not be independently confirmed.

In the north, opposition forces claimed their troops were closing in on the airport at Mazar-e-Sharif and some units were as close as 7 km.

Taliban information ministry official Abdul Henan Himet confirmed heavy fighting near Mazar-e-Sharif but insisted Taliban forces were "fully capable" of defending the strategic city.

In Washington, US officials said Mazar-e-Sharif could fall within days—thanks in part to the air strikes that could clear the way for the opposition.

The stronghold's fall would be a "significant setback," Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, US Joint Chiefs of Staff operations director, told reporters.

Control of Mazar-e-Sharif would allow the opposition to control major supply routes and to consolidate their position near the borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, from where the opposition was receiving weapons.

Omar's message

In an attempt to rally his forces, the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, reportedly sent a radio message to his commanders Wednesday telling them that "God Almighty will defeat the great infidel confronting us."

"Show patience and confidence, because we are waging a holy war against infidels," the Afghan Islamic Press, a Pakistan-based private agency, quoted Omar as saying.

"Life and death are both the same to us, because we want to become martyrs."

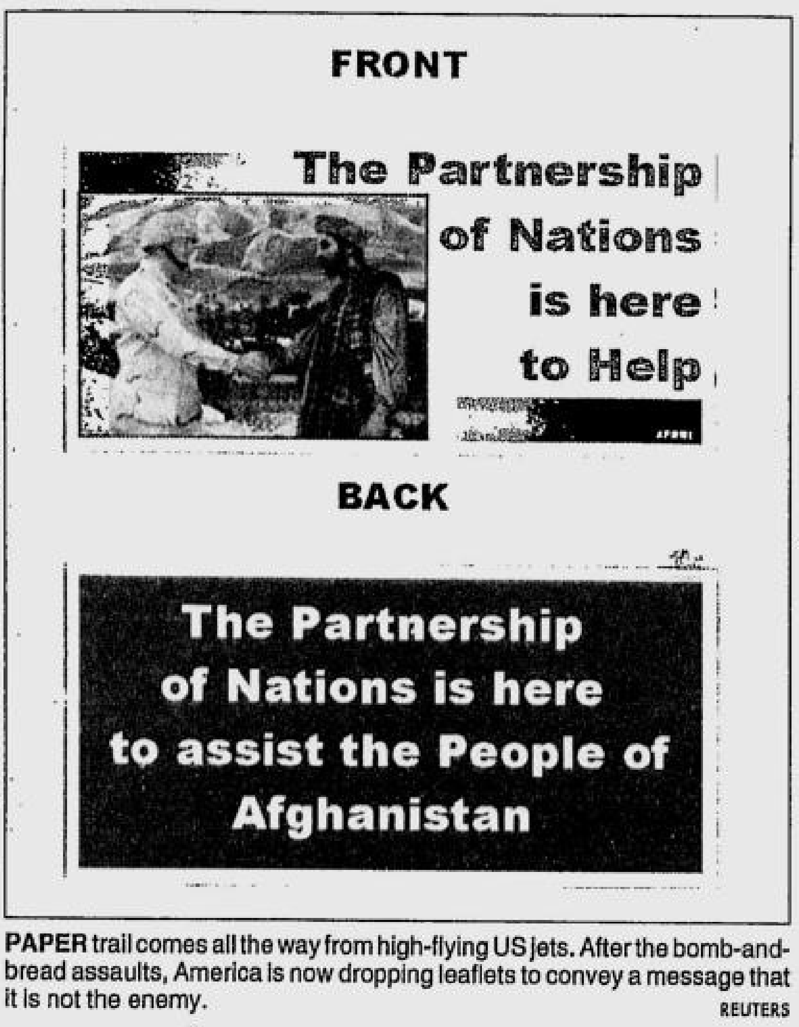
In Islamabad, international aid groups appealed for a bombing pause to allow them to transport at least 50,000 tons of food to Afghans.

Two million civilians need help to survive the winter, and a half million will be cut off from supplies by winter snows starting next month.

Aid groups also appealed to both sides to avoid targeting aid convoys.

On Wednesday, the Pentagon acknowledged bombing the International Red Cross compound in Kabul, setting two warehouses on fire.

A Pentagon official said US pilots thought the Taliban militia was using the warehouses in the area. AP


FRONT

The Partnership
of Nations
is here
to Help

BACK

The Partnership
of Nations is here
to assist the People of
Afghanistan

PAPER trail comes all the way from high-flying US jets. After the bomb-and-bread assaults, America is now dropping leaflets to convey a message that it is not the enemy. REUTERS

Finding Bin Laden's subterranean lairs easier said than done, say scientists

SAN JOSE, California—President George W. Bush is vowing to smoke Osama bin Laden and his cohorts out of caves. But detecting subterranean lairs is no small feat.

Under ideal conditions, high-tech tools can reveal the location and structure of underground cavities by measuring subtle changes in the force of gravity, seismic waves and electrical resistance.

"It's a real easy job if you have a bunch of graduate students and you can walk around on the ground taking measurements," said Antony Fraser-Smith, a Stanford University geophysicist.

Afghanistan today is hardly the place for such field trips.

Another problem is that almost all known US reconnaissance tools—including radar and communications interception devices—are built for detecting something. And caves are all about the absence of something.

During the Vietnam War, US soldiers faced enemies adept at tunneling. One of the most successful detection techniques involved carefully observing entrances for smoke or body odor.

In the early 1990s, a tunnel apparently dug by North Korea was found beneath the Demilitarized Zone. Seismic testing and radar confirmed the location.

Smugglers also move drugs through underground passages from Mexico into the United States. These have usually been discovered through tips, rather than technology.

In all those cases, however, the cave-detectors were people on the ground.

To be most effective, cavern-hunting in Afghanistan would require much the same approach—while also probably employing methods originally designed by geologists to find pipes, oil deposits and earthquake faults.

A common technique for mapping the underground is to monitor seismic waves by setting off explosions or thumping the ground with a large sledgehammer.

But small explosions near a suspected hideout would attract unwanted attention as well as produce results far from conclusive.

"Seismic techniques are not ideal at all for detecting a cavity in the ground because the seismic waves don't go through the cavity—they go around it," Fraser-Smith said. "You tend not to see it."

Ground-penetrating radar, which works like underwater sonar and has been used to find archaeological treasures, is most effective on flat surfaces and has other limitations.

"It can't get to the depths that you would need," said Roy Greenfield, a geosciences professor at Pennsylvania State University.

In another technique, researchers measure very slight fluctuations in the pull of gravity.

"It will show you oil deposits. It will show you lots of structures in the ground," Fraser-Smith said. "But they're not so good at picking up the absence of something."

And though it is possible to perform the technique from the air, it is far more reliable when done on land.

It is also possible to detect cavities by measuring how electrical currents change as they pass through the ground, said Mats Lagmanson, a geophysicist and president of Austin, Texas-based Advanced Geosciences Inc.

"I can't really say our troops can use this in a battle situation," he said. "They could use it when things have calmed down."

The US military may have other, secret technologies at its disposal. In the Gulf War, soldiers faced enemies in underground bunkers, which led to more research into detection and destruction techniques.

US defense analysts, meanwhile, scour high-resolution satellite images for telltale signs of underground life, such as smoke rising from an entrance and roads that seem to lead to nowhere. Infrared sensors also might spot the heat of cooking fires, electrical generators or people.

"The tough aspect is doing it quickly," said William C. Martel, professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College. "I think the consensus probably is that if you have sufficient time, you can find these things."

Afghanistan should be well-covered by spy satellites given its Cold War history, particularly after the Soviet invasion in 1979, said Tim Brown, senior associate at GlobalSecurity.org, a security issues think tank.

"The Afghan war was just a practice," Brown said of the conflict that ended with the Soviets' 1989 withdrawal. "There should be a wealth of data, imagery left behind." *AP*

US advisers now in Mindanao–US Embassy

(From page A1)

US-trained Scout Rangers of the Light Reaction Company had earlier been sent to Basilan to rescue Abu Sayyaf hostages US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Besides the Burnhams, the Abu Sayyaf is currently holding nine Filipinos hostages on Basilan island.

In June, the bandit group beheaded American hostage Guillermo Sobero whom the group abducted, along with the Burnhams and 17 Filipinos, from an island resort in Palawan on May 27.

Since the crisis began, the bandits have murdered 16 Filipino hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf has threatened to kill the Burnhams unless advancing troops withdraw, but President Macapagal-Arroyo has rejected their demand and vowed to crush them.

Military officials said the Abu Sayyaf was set up in the early 1990s with seed money from Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Bin Laden is the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the Task Group Thunder, said efforts had been doubled to rescue the remaining hostages.

Esperon said members of the Light Reaction Company, who are issued night vision equipment, had been trained directly by the US military, particularly in the safe rescue of hostages.

Night stalkers

"They are what we call the night stalkers. It's a special unit with long-range patrol capabilities," he said.

Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command, said the Abu Sayyaf had split into smaller groups and divided the hostages, apparently in a bid to facilitate movement.

"They have splintered into small groups. They would like to avoid the heavy confrontations or encounters," Gudani said. "They felt the pressure of conventional warfare."

With the kidnap group's latest change of strategy, Gudani said the military would have a harder time trying to locate them in the Basilan jungles.

Since encounters between the bandit group and government troops were renewed on Monday, more than 30 Abu Sayyaf members have been killed and high-powered firearms have been recovered, according to Gudani.

He said military operations were taking a toll on the Abu Sayyaf, which could have prompted the group to call for a ceasefire.

But he reiterated the government's earlier stated stand rejecting any let-up in the operations.

The military objective is to end the Abu Sayyaf's depredations by yearend and to capture their leader, dead or alive.

Janjalani

But Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani has slipped out of Basilan, reportedly in the company of two Yemeni nationals, to escape the intensified military operations, Gudani said.

"We have intelligence reports that Janjalani has left Basilan for fear of his life," Gudani told reporters.

A former hostage, who said he managed to talk to Janjalani shortly before he left with the two Arabs, confirmed the military report.

Joel Guillo of Lamitan said Janjalani had left on Oct. 5.

"The last I heard of him after that was when he informed (Abu) Sabaya that the boat (he was in) had sunk as they neared the city," Guillo said.

He admitted, however, that he had no idea which city Janjalani was referring to.

Gudani said Janjalani had not returned to Basilan and suspected that he had abandoned the kidnap group.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu believes Janjalani will soon fall into the hands of the military.

Though the bandit leader may have left Basilan, he is still in Mindanao, according to Cimatu.

Cimatu said intelligence reports indicated that lower-ranking Abu Sayyaf leaders, including Janjalani's spokesperson and lieutenant Abu Sabaya, were still in the area being scoured by the Army on the outskirts of the island's capital, Isabela. *Reports from AFP and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Move over, DKNY, here comes FDNY

NEW YORK—Move over DKNY. Here comes FDNY.

Items carrying the FDNY, as well as NYPD, logos of the New York Fire and Police Departments respectively are being snapped up at street stands and retail locations.

They are becoming, much like the stars and stripes, major symbols of American patriotism. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, other government officials and Hollywood stars like Bruce Willis have also popularized FDNY and NYPD caps or jackets in solidarity with the fallen police officers. Now the trend has become a spontaneous outpouring by consumers.

In a sure sign that the fashion trend has arrived, counterfeiters are quickly stitching unauthorized initials onto caps and jackets to cash in on the demand, just as they have always done with designers like Donna Karan New York, which makes the DKNY label.

The one-year-old store, the FDNY Fire Zone, which sells official fire department gear, said its sales of firefighting apparel have already surpassed those normally seen around Christmas since the attacks. But the store has also noticed the counterfeit goods being sold just outside its doors in Midtown Manhattan, and it wants to put a halt to the sales.

"What they are selling is fake and illegal. We are speaking to our attorneys," said Mary Weitzman, a spokesperson for the Fire Zone.

Weitzman added that the fire department planned to seek an immediate court order to bar hundreds of unauthorized vendors that are now hawking "fake" FDNY merchandise.

The store—which features a replica of a firefighting truck and other firefighting gadgets—is the nation's only official retailer of merchandise from the FDNY.

"Since Sept. 11 our sales have surged. Each week we are doing business three times greater than we did last year," said Weitzman.

An NYPD spokesperson said the police department has no official retailer for its merchandise, but added that people are free to buy whatever they want with the NYPD logo from the street vendors. "We are not in the business of selling T-shirts," he said.

Buyers don't seem to care whether they're buying official, or pirated, merchandise.

"By this NYPD cap I am representing America," said Louis Marrero, 28, a resident of New York's Bronx suburb after buying his cap from a street-vendor in Times Square.

He said the World Trade Center attack affected him very much because some of his relatives work in the police force and faced the same danger that befell some of their colleagues on Sept. 11.

Sales of apparel with the NYPD logo is also on the rise, said a sales assistant at 42nd Street Bazaar Flea Market, near New York City's Times Square.

Sales of police and firefighting T-shirts, baseball caps, jackets and toys show no signs of slowing, even as fashion sales at department stores are hurting as a result of a slowing economy.

Tribute

"I don't call this a fashion statement. All I am doing is showing the world that these people gave their lives for us and this is a token of support," Marrero added.

"All that I am buying for my nephew this Halloween is an FDNY sweater. He loves the firefighters even more now," said Renee Korus, one of the many shoppers at the Fire Zone.

Much of what's being purchased on the streets, however, is unauthorized.

"All that's wanted is everything that says FDNY," she added.

Among the most popular items flying off the store were FDNY baseball hats, made popular by Giuliani on his many television appearances following the attacks. The hats sell for $15.95.

"People see this merchandise as the best way to pay tribute to all the firefighters that died on Sept. 11," said Weitzman.

Other items on the hot list include sweaters and T-shirts—which sell for anything from $9 to $21.

The Fire Zone, which also has an Internet kiosk, has even asked for extra volunteers to help with the increase in customer traffic, said Weitzman.

But beside apparel, the Fire Zone is also preparing to launch an "FDNY Billy Blazes Rescue Hero" toy next month, well in time for Christmas.

The little firefighting figure is a special project between toy maker Fischer-Price—a unit of Mattel Inc. and toy retailer Toys R Us Inc. Proceeds from the toy sale will be donated to a fire safety education fund.

Still, the New York fire department has ruled out any plan to capitalize on the merchandise craze by tying-up with mass retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., saying instead it is pinning its focus on the staff lost in the disaster.

Forbes abduction foiled

(From page A1)

She emerged from the room at about 8:45 a.m. As she was entering her car, two armed men jumped into the car. This is when she screamed as loud as she could, according to the parish report. Her screams were heard even inside the air-conditioned adoration room and by people in the parking lot as well as the guards at the security outpost at the Palm Avenue gate of Dasmariñas Village.

The San Antonio parish has augmented its security detail.

LOWEST
PACKAGE PRICE! *

Mitsubishi Split-Type Aircon

CAPACITY	PACKAGE PRICE*
1.0 HP	₱28,000
1.5 HP	31,000
2.0 HP	39,500
2.5 HP	44,000

Carrier Split & Package-Type Aircon

CAPACITY	PACKAGE PRICE*
1.0 HP	₱30,000
1.5 HP	33,000
2.0 HP	41,500
2.5 HP	46,000
3.0 TR FM	59,000
3.0 TR CM	61,000

Koppel Split & Package-Type Aircon

CAPACITY	PACKAGE PRICE*
1.0 HP	₱29,000
1.5 HP	32,000
2.0 HP	40,500
2.5 HP	45,000
3.0 TR FM	59,000
3.0 TR CM	61,000

* NOTE: INCLUDES COST OF UNIT PLUS STANDARD INSTALLATION

TOTAL
AirconCenter, Inc.
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INSTALLATION:
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LA SALLE'S main man Ren-Ren Ritualo exults after leading the Archers to their fourth straight UAAP men's basketball title Tuesday over the Ateneo Blue Eagles. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

'My most memorable win ever'

By Dennis U. Eroa

JUST like the other champion coaches before him, La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren entered the interview room with a smile as big as the Big Dome. His eyes sparkling, he strode like he was a giant Christmas tree. His face lit with grandeur.

Away from the maddening, delirous crowd outside, Pumaren was back to his most comfortable habitat as young and old reporters swarmed all over the man, who minutes earlier had steered the Green Archers to the UAAP "four-ward" crown at the expense of their arch rivals, the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

PUMAREN

Pumaren paid tribute to the countless La Salle backers for what he called "my most memorable win ever."

He was sometimes at a loss for words, but when asked to describe La Salle's campaign, Pumaren didn't think twice.

"We never backed out. We were going to hold our heads high, win or lose," said Pumaren, who described the campaign as "stormy."

By steadfastly challenging adversaries on and off the court, the Green Archers have become "men on a mission," Pumaren said.

Team manager Terry Caspistrano, who also partnered with Pumaren during La Salle's victory over Far Eastern University in the 2000 finals, said the Green Archers showed great poise and their ability to explode during crucial moments proved crucial.

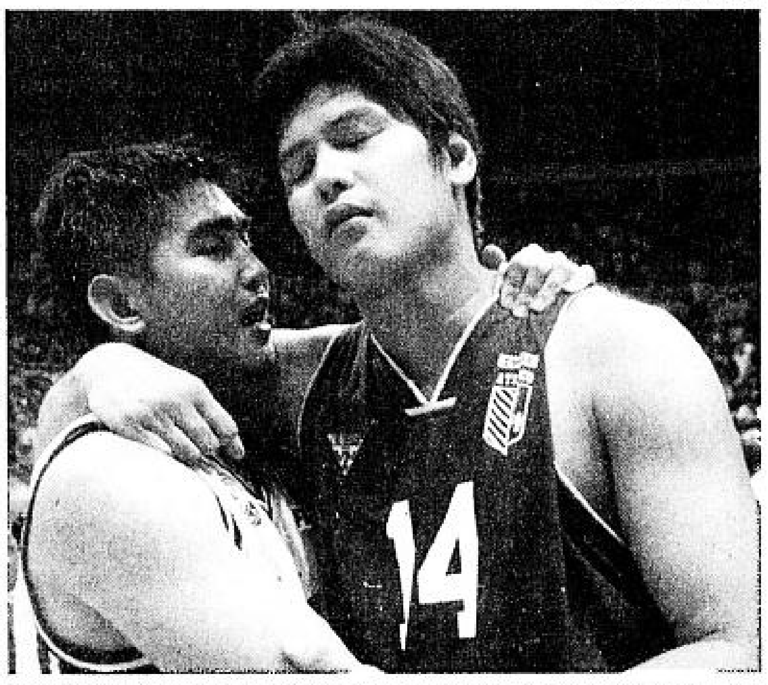
"While I'm exuberant with the win, I also pay tribute to the Ateneo team which fought to the very end and showed great sportsmanship," Capistrano, nicknamed Mr. Cool, said.

Bro. Rollie Dizon, La Salle president, paid tribute "to God" for the championship.

Yesterday's classes at La Salle were suspended. A week earlier, La Salle also won the women's basketball crown by beating University of the Philippines.

Pumaren noted that La Salle played hurt during the entire tournament. BJ Manalo, a revelation in the second round and the finals, missed most of the first round due to a foot injury. Also playing injured were Mika Vainio, Adonis Sta. Maria and Mike Gavino, who with Manny Ramos (dengue fever) didn't play on Tuesday.

But like gallant warriors up against a rampaging multitude, the Archers were on target when challenged.



FORMER Ateneo high school teammates BJ Manalo (left) and Enrico Villanueva are caught in an emotional embrace after La Salle (where Manalo is one of the star players) took the UAAP men's basketball title Tuesday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Ateneo, not La Salle, wasn't the first team to enter the best-of-three finals. Momentum was on the Blue Eagles' side when they forced the decider by winning Game Two, 76-72.

But while the Archers handled pressure seemingly with ease, the Eagles, notably their senior players, collapsed when the big game came.

Pumaren had no qualms shuffling his men, while Ateneo coach Joe Lipa lived and died with his veteran players.

La Salle's bench (Joseph Yeo and BJ Manalo) played with intensity, with the biggest cheers reserved for Game 3 hero Carlo Sharma, who outdueled Enrico Villanueva, to the dismay of Ateneo supporters.

Villanueva, Ateneo's pillar of strength, broke the hearts of Ateneo fans by playing his worst game for the season—coming yet at a time when all the so-called marbles were at stake.

"Until the very end, we're not a complete unit. We survived on fighting hearts and through the guidance of the Lord," Pumaren said.

Mark Cardona, fresh from the hospital, was limited to two points, but Mike Cortez and Ren Ren Ritualo, voted by the press corps as co-MVPs in the finals, Sta. Maria and Willy Wilson ably backed up the sensational Sharma in keeping La Salle's lofty position.

For Ateneo, losing to La Salle was an unforgettable, nightmarish experience. Its three-year buildup to win again after its victory in 1988 ended in sadness.

But there's hope for Ateneo as rookie Lewis Alfred Tenorio personified the Eagles' future with his spectacular performance on Tuesday that saw him score a game-high 30 points. Many of those points came from acrobatic shots.

Perhaps, in defeat, Ateneo can learn a lesson or two from La Salle.

Before the Archers speared their fourth straight UAAP crown on Tuesday, they finished second four times—to the UST Growling Tigers from 1993 to 1996.

The morning after: Even text messaging is colored green

By Jong Arcano

WHAT comes next after a La Salle-Ateneo UAAP finale? But of course, a fiery exchange of text messages.

As hot as the Erap jokes, as vicious as the Miriam series..., the world's text capital was once more all agog on a classic showdown that had Green as the winner and Blue the loser.

Some of the text messages that circulated around Globe and Smart networks:

PLS proceed to edsa shrine and pray 4 our country-lasalle won.

CONGRATS! For sale: DLSU cum laude diplomas! Comes in cum laude, magna cum laude n summa cum laude! Unlimited stock! Never been used! Be the first to own one!!

For Sale: Special promo! Buy 1 take 11 "ATENEO BLUE EAGLES 2001 UAAP CHAMPS" t-shirts! Comes in free sizes, plus wd rare special edition "We believe!" stickers!!

Bon Voyage! Archers to America, Lipa to Afghanistan!

Warning to motorists: Don't pass Katipunan Ave., baha ng luha

Hoy! gamitin mo ang ulo mo. According to my fellow Atenean Erap, the score is tied so walang winner. Ateneo won the first half and La Salle the second.

Discovery Channel: Based on statstics, d chances f n Archer hitting an eagle s 3%bcoz 97% of d eagles choke 2 death upon d sight f an archer.

La Salle brothers mas malakas kay Lord, Jesuits ask too much kc.

A La Sallite sent this. Res ipsa loquitur: La Salle was so overwhelmed by their victory last night they declared a holiday in the middle of their sem break.

On the last battlefield, eagles will fly and try to devour the men in green until the Great Archer shoots them down. Now eagles sold at half price at ANDOKS!

Tuesday's individual scores

LA SALLE 93--Cortez 23, Sharma 22, Ritualo 16, Manalo 11, Wilson 8, Yeo 6, Sta. Maria 4, Cardona 4.

ATENEO 88--Tenorio 30, Membrere 14, Sison 12, Alvarez 10, Bugia 8, Villanueva 5, Tanchi 4, Fonacier 3, Cruz 2.

Quarters: 24-24, 35-50, 62-64, 93-88

Marave, Bumgarner 'hold punches'

DEMVEL Racing's Pepon Marave and CDS Gulf Oil Racing's Lee Bumgarner could have chosen to merely hold their punches and still run away with the titles in their respective categories in the final round of the 2001 Shell Super Kart Championships held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines on Sunday in Carmona, Cavite.

Nevertheless, they lived up to the role of true champions as they chose to slug it out with the contenders to the very end.

The newly crowned Karter of the Year Marave shook off the kinks in his kart midway through the final race to salvage third place behind the redhot teammate Manuel Sy and Kart 1's Jess Garcia in the Formula A finals.

Bumgarner, meanwhile, took second behind German teammate Bert Neuhof but not after some exciting dicing with the latter and the eventual third placer Angelo Barreto of Demvel's Racing.

The series' major sponsors are Shell Helix, Shell Velocity, Shell Citibank Mastercard, Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises, Eastway Racing, Matchbox/Hot Wheels, WG&A Shipping Company, Astorga and Repol Law Office and CGU Insurance.

ARC's Arvin Drueco led his teammates Jeremy Marquez and Donovan Yu to a 1-2-3 finish in the rain-drenched KT Light final heat. Marquez, nevertheless, grabbed the limelight from Drueco as his second place finish was enough to earn him the class title.

The highlight of the KT Light finals,however, was the sensational come-from-behind charge of erstwhile series leader Mandy Borja of Demvel's Racing which had the spectators on their toes.

Borja started out 18th in the grid on account of mechanical problems in the elimination heats. Displaying skillful driving over a slick and slippery track, Borja crawled his way up the field, passing the frontrunners one by one to the delight of huge weekend crowd. Borja's efforts in the finals were not enough to prevent Marquez from running away with the title.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 9999

Race 1—1. C'est Magnifique 2. Ticket to Fame 3. Septembermorn

Race 2—1. Power Pack 2. Dream Play/Catch Me 3. Hammerhead

Race 3—1. Fountain of Gold 2. Diva 3. Hasty 4. Kayang Kaya 5. Sprint Free

Race 4—1. Jhelen 2. Marissa's Dinne 3. The Serpent 4. You and Me

Race 5—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Native Talent/ Perfect Gift 3. Bravada 4. Uzisaki 5. Let Me Pass

Race 6—1. Gold Prosperity 2. Double Check 3. Southern Skies 4. Ace of Space 5. Noble Principality

Race 7—1. Mrs. Big 2. Silent Wind 3. Battle Tested 4. Rosa Valentina

Race 8—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Pride of Mandaue 3. Big Kahuna 4. Dynasty 5. Baby My Beloved

Race 9—1. Fair Ringer 2. Red Hahn 3. Turkish Delight 4. Hearts on Fire 5. Don't Worry 6. Time Essential

LBC spanks Socsargen, stays ahead

By Roy Luarca

Second Phase Standings		
Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's San Juan	6	1
FedEx Laguna	4	3
Nueva Ecija	2	5
Southern Conference		
Negros	6	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	3	5
Socsargen-Taguig	1	8
TPG Davao	0	6

Games tomorrow:
(Tinga Gym, Taguig)
3 p.m.—N. Ecija vs Socsargen-Taguig
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Negros

LIPA CITY—The LBC Batangas Blades showed the importance of the free throw in a tight game yesterday.

Making all their seven charities in the fourth quarter, the Blades nipped the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins, 89-86, and stayed ahead in the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

The Blades improved to an 8-win, 1-loss mark in the Northern Conference as they outsteadied the Marlins, who blew a 17-point spread in the third quarter.

For a change, however, the Marlins gave the Blades a big scare up to the final buzzer. So unlike their first game, which ended in a 112-90 blowout for the Marlins.

For his sterling performance in the second half, Laure was named the game's best player after compiling 15 points, eight rebounds, one block and one assist.

"Frankly, we don't expect this (game) to be close," said Laure. "We started slow and we were relaxed and confident."

The Blades wrested back the lead at 71-70 behind a five-point run by Ralph Rivera and a Blitz 3 by Jeffrey Sanders, but the Marlins wouldn't budge and regained control at 80-74 on back-to-back triples by Alvarez and Aldrich Reyes.

Romel Adducul was his usual dominant self inside the paint, grabbing 20 rebounds that gave the Blades a big 52-34 edge off the boards.

Negros withstood a determined stand by TPG Davao to prevail, 106-101, in the other game at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City. Negros rose to 6-1, while TPG Davao fell to 0-6 in the Southern Conference.

The Slashers saw their 20-point lead whittled to just five, but kept their poise to thwart the Eagles.

LBC BATANGAS 89—Compton 20, Adducul 18, Laure 15, Sanders 12, Martin 10, Rivera 9, Espinosa 3, Serrano 0, Ramirez 0, Corbin 0.

SOCSARGEN TAGUIG 86—Alvarez 18, Flores 17, Rodriguez 14, Reyes 12, Santos 8, Teng 0, Co 0, Tizon 0.

Quarters: 24-23, 42-52, 66-70, 89-86.

Balena sparks Army boxers Open victory

IRIGA CITY—Veteran Charlie Balena stopped veteran internationalist and Army stalwart Anthony Igusquiza in the second round and gave the Philippine Air Force headway in its campaign in the 2001 National Juniors, Seniors and Women's Open Boxing Championships here.

Balena, also a member of the national training pool, swarmed all over Igusquiza in their light welterweight bout, pummeling the RP team mainstay with head blows to force the referee to stop the contest 55 seconds into the second round.

"That was probably the best bout for the day," said Iriga City Mayor Emmanuel Alfelor, whose support to sports was made more evident by his continued presence during the fights.

Balena's win was the most inspiring among the five victories registered by the Airmen, a record matched by both the Navy and Army on the second day of this weeklong tournament solely sponsored by the Iriga City government and the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP).

Also moving into the next round were Airmen Felipo Balena and Isagani Gamboa in the light flyweight class and Decebrix Ambilay and Elmer Pagdato in the flyweight division.

Not to be outdone, defending champion Army and archrival Navy also registered convincing victories.

MJ game on TV-13

THE FIRST preseason game of Michael Jordan in the NBA will be the highlight feature in this week's Milo Sporting World, which will be aired over Viva Vintage 13.

Jordan came out of retirement and joined the Washington Wizards, which he formerly owned, and played his first preseason game against the Detroit Pistons.

The show, hosted by Jannelle So, will feature highlights of that game.

Produced by Viva Vintage and line-produced by Isports Action TV, Milo Sporting World airs Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

The show will also feature the Milo Marathon in Batangas and the Manila leg of the Milo Little Olympics. Also on tap are the Shell Active Chess tournament, a unique dog show, NCC Basketball, Laguna Games and more.

In the regular Let's Get Into Sports segment, sepak takraw takes centerstage. On the other hand, the Milo Sports Heroes portion will feature tennis great Dyan Castillejo.

Jordan injures left foot

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan sat out an intrasquad scrimmage Tuesday night because of a strained left foot.

Jordan injured his foot in the Washington Wizards' exhibition game against Miami on Saturday and has not practiced with the team since.

Jordan is listed as day-to-day. It is not known whether he will play in a preseason game Thursday against the Detroit Pistons in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Jordan revealed the injury when he spoke to the MCI Center crowd at the scrimmage, which was held to honor Washington area police, fire, search and rescue, military and medical employees who assisted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

Derby finals blast off

THE 6TH Ucap/ Altuz Sir Vincent 7-Stag Derby enters its championship round at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight, with four unbeaten entries out of 39 leading the field.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The frontrunners, who scored three points each Tuesday night, are 1999 Ucap Cocker of the Year Jet Fernando and Ramon Mancenares (Ask the Audience), Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv.), Mayor Claudy Bautista (CPB PBRJ) and unheralded Walter Villanueva of San Jose, Batangas (Aizadela Jiffy).

With 2.5 points are Gerry Fevidal (Geran), Choy Ampil (King Clutter NGBA), Richard Masongsong (RMM NGBA) and Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master).

Sabong idol Parick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan) posted two victories to maintain his lead in the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2001 race, with a current total of 24 points.

Derby hosts Ram Lopez Lopez and businessman-sportsman Vic Yu said more than 50 top class fights are lined up tonight. For inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Pampanga 'Sagupaan' on

THE MUCH-AWAITED showdown of upcoming gamefowl breeders in Luzon finally unfolds at 6 p.m. today via the 'Sagupaan 4-Stag Smalltime Derby at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City.

AT stake is a guaranteed prize of P200,000. Entry fee is P5,500. A huge Sagupaan trophy, plus P10,000,s will go to the entry that will get the "fastest kill" award.

More than 70 exciting fights are in store for aficionados, according to derby host Patrick Antonio. Antonio is also host of the weekly 'Sagupaan' TV show on IBC-13 every Saturday, from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Aside from the guaranteed prize, derby host Patrick Antonio will also give away a prized Sagupaan trio for the champion, to give the winners a chance of further improving their lines of gamebirds.

The event comes on the heels of the highly successful "Sagupaan Bigtime Invitational Derby" last Sept. 29, witnessed by a jampacked crowd. Bobby Cabillion of Laguna (RSC Pasay Cockpit entry) emerged as solo champion from a field of 29 entries.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1986, Bong Coo tallied 1372-2569 in both the singles and all events to win the 7th PBA (Pasig Bowling Association) Open tenpin championships at the Green Valley Lanes in Pasig City.

'Statement of Unity' signed by PSC officials

IN A SHOW of unity under a burgeoning crisis, Philippine Sports Commission officials yesterday signed a "statement of unity and commitment to serve," putting the national sports associations among their top priorities.

PSC chair Butch Tuason and Commissioners Richie Garcia, Weena Lim, Cynthia Carrion and William Ramirez listed down five commitments amid the clamor for their resignation by a group of disgruntled athletes and coaches.

They released the statement a week before the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines is set to stage a protest vigil to ask Malacañang to overhaul the PSC for failure to help the athletes' cause.

Among the PSC officials' commitments are:

1) To be united as a collegial body,

2) To be steadfast in providing leadership and direction in forming policies for sports development,

3) To harness the partnership of public and private agencies in sports; and,

4) To promote grass-roots development.

They also vowed to "assist the NSAs in their quest for excellence in international sports competitions."

LIM

CARRION

Tuason to release ₱2.6M for coaches' SEAG bonus

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday said he was releasing P2.6 million in coaches' bonuses even as he appealed for a fresh round of negotiation with the displeased Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines.

He asked the Acap members, who are threatening to hold a protest vigil next week, to list down their demands, sit down with the PSC officials and negotiate their positions.

"Let's make this a collective bargaining agreement," said Tuason. "They should give me an itemized list of their demands so I can look for ways how to help them. Then give me a deadline to beat. If we have a list then we will know which promise I failed to fulfill."

Just to get the ball rolling, Tuason said he already approved the coaches' bonus which will be released before the end of the week as incentive package for their recent Southeast Asian Games performance.

"Is that something to rally about?" said Tuason, referring to the group led by weightlifting coach Jaime Sebastian. "I think that is something to sit down and talk about."

Nevertheless, Sebastian said there was no stopping the group from staging the rally to press for the resignation of Tuason, his four commissioners, as well as Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

Sebastian added that Tuason has been informed of their demands from the start and it's useless listing them down if PSC is not sincere about it.

"If they really want to help our athletes and coaches, they should have done something then and not allow things to come to this," said Sebastian. "We have been talking to him regularly, we have given him enough occasion to air his side and do something to help us."

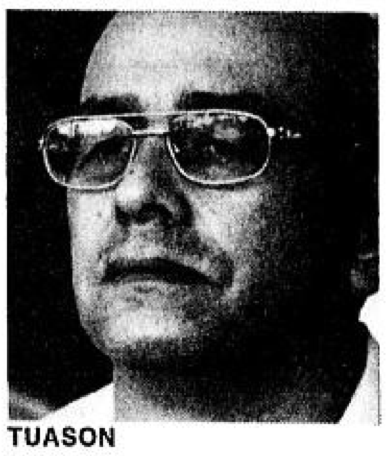
Tuason said the PSC already granted an across-the-board increase of P1,000 per athlete and coach last May but an additional increase—which the Acap is also asking for—can't be approved until after Christmas.

"We have so many Christmas expenses, and that include bonuses for athletes and coaches," said Tuason. "But that doesn't mean we are not considering the request. We just want to talk about it on January."

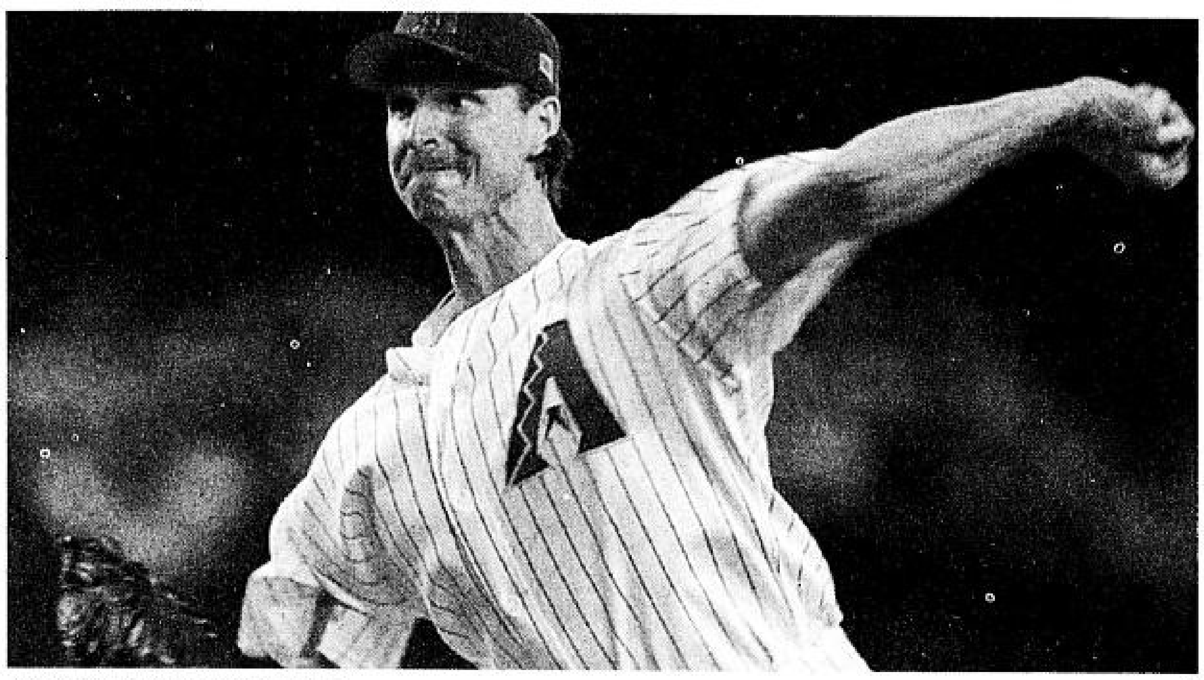
The PSC has about 800 national athletes, 300 national coaches and 400 office personnel on its payroll, according to Tuason. The agency also has P3 million monthly electric bill and P300,000 water bill.

The chair said the agency just bought a brand-new water pump to ensure water supply in the athletes' quarters, whose repairs are already underway.

But the PSC can't go full-blast into renovation because they are still waiting for the budget coming from Congress. The refurbishing would cost P80 million.



TUASON



JOHNSON: First game hero. AP

Johnson masterpiece keys Arizona win

PHOENIX—With icy calm and magnificent heat, Randy Johnson buried his reputation as a postseason flop Tuesday.

In a matchup of pitchers who together have seven Cy Young Awards and 457 victories, Johnson threw a three-hit masterpiece as the Arizona Diamondbacks beat Greg Maddux and the Atlanta Braves 2-0 in Game 1 of the National League championship series.

Johnson struck out 11 and walked one to snap his major league-record seven-game losing streak in the postseason.

"Assuming someone might say here 'Is this a monkey off your back?' This is more like a gorilla," Johnson said with his young son beside him in the interview room. "King Kong."

Chipper Jones, a longtime nemesis of Johnson, had two of Atlanta's hits to improve to 11-for-25 with six homers in his career off the Big Unit. Jones barely beat out a sharp line drive off the glove of a leaping Matt Williams at third base with two outs in the first inning.

After that, Johnson retired 20 in a row before walking Bernard Gilkey on four pitches with one out in the eighth. *AP*

IS to host swim meet

THE METROPOLITAN Swimming Network will hold the MSM 3 Millennium Short Course Grand Prix 2001-2002, a swimming competition that will determine the national age group ranking of Filipino swimmers on Oct. 27-28 at the International School in Makati City.

The competition is under the auspices and sanction of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (PASA) in cooperation with the Professional Swimming Coaches Academy of the Philippines (ProSCAP).

MSN is the group accredited to determine national age group rankings of Filipino swimmers.

The MSN 3 Millennium Short Course Grand Prix 2001-2002 is officially included by PASA as pre-qualifying competitions for all the international events for the year 2002 under adjusted Qualifying Times for Long Course Meter.

Results from the MSM Millennium Grand Prix 2001-2002 is officially included by PASA in determining the National Age Group Ranking and National Open Ranking for the year 2002, and in the Asian Open Ranking and Asian Age Group Ranking.

For inquiries, please call PASA, 687-7403; or Eric Buhain, MSN secretary general, 844-5350 or e-mail at metro swim net@hotmail.com.

Pangasinan cagefest draws 22 contingents

THE PANGASINAN Sangguniang Kabataan Inter-town and Cities Basketball Tournament 2001 opens Friday at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Activities Center (NRSCC), with Rep. Mark Cojuangco as guest of honor.

Twenty-two teams from different SK municipal and city federations will compete in the tournament expected to end in December as one of the highlights of the federation's contribution to the nationwide Linggo ng Kabataan celebration.

Board Member Marie Antonnette O. Villar, provincial SK federation president, said she's happy to see various teams playing against each other to "tune-up" in preparation for the tournament proper.

The participating teams were divided into three brackets by means of drawing by lots.

Bracket A is composed of the towns of Burgos, Infanta, Urdaneta City, San Nicolas, Sta. Barbara, Sison, Alaminos City and San Carlos City while bracket B includes Binmaley, Lingayen, Villasis, San Fabian, Manaoag, Urbiztondo and Binalonan and bracket C is made up of Calasiao, San Jacinto, Bayambang, Sto. Tomas, Dasol, Mangaldan and Bugallon.

Playing venues will be at the NRSCC and the Dagupan City Astrodome.

Winners will receive P30,000, P20,000, P10,000 and P5,000 plus trophy each to the champion, first, second and third runners-up respectively.

Villar said this is the first time since she assumed office in 1996 that a basketball tournament of this magnitude under the auspices of the SK provincial federation would be held.

The opening program will also showcase the diverse talents of Pangasinan youth as they perform various numbers to heighten the excitement of the crowd. Students from the Binmaley Catholic School Inc. will provide a cheering number while those from the Manaoag National High School, Pangasinan National High School and the Pangasinan State University-Lingayen will render intermission numbers.

Villar said there will be other special prizes for the Most Beautiful Team Muse, Best in Uniform and Earliest Delegation To Arrive, among others.

PSC recycles Keon, appoints him to Asiad

MICHAEL Keon, the most famous nephew of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is back.

Yesterday, the Philippine Sports Commission issued a statement appointing Keon "to take active role in the preparation of the country's representatives to the 2002 Asian Games."

Philippine Sports Commission Chair Butch Tuason said Keon will act as the PSC's training director for the Asian Games next year in Pusan, South Korea.

Keon was head of Project Gintong Alay in the '80s.

"Mr. Keon will definitely be an asset to Team Philippines considering his good track record," Tuason said. "He's going to play a very important role in the preparation of the contingent."

Keon will be given special powers by the PSC to monitor athletes being trained by the various National Sports Associations.

Keon, along with the Philippine Olympic Committee and the NSAs, will determine the athletes with the best chances of winning a medal in the Asiad.

The PSC will also recommend exposure stints, both local and international, for athletes bound for the Asiad and other prospective talents.

Kournikova loses again

ZURICH, Switzerland—Anna Kournikova suffered her fifth consecutive opening-round loss since coming back from a long injury layoff, falling to South Africa's Amanda Coetzer on Tuesday at the $1,185 million Swisscom Challenge.

Coetzer—ranked 17th in the world, seven spots above Kournikova—overcame a momentary lapse of concentration in the second set to defeat the Russian 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

"Amanda is always a very tough player to play," said Kournikova, who has been struggling to get back into shape following a nagging foot injury and has not won a match since February. "She's never going to give up. I basically tried to play my game, to be aggressive.

In other first-round action, teenage rookie Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian gave Swiss fans new hope after the loss of Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder, conquering seventh-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia to advance to the second round. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart) - Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: World Cup Mix at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

International Beach Soccer - Portugal vs Brazil at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

UEFA Champions League Group Phase 1, Match Day 4 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on ESPN

EPL - Fulham vs Aston Villa at 12 noon on Star Sports

2001 Korean Football League Highlights at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Futbol Mundial at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2001 at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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- Arizona takes Game 1 vs Atlanta A17
- Tuason gives P2.6M to athletes A17
- MBA, boxing results A16

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

- How La Salle won its fourth straight UAAP title A16

PBA GOVERNORS CUP

Alaska makes it 3 in a row

Standings	W L		W L
Sta. Lucia	7 1	Red Bull	3 4
Talk N Text	6 2	Pop Cola	4 5
Shell	4 3	Alaska	3 5
San Miguel	4 4	Purefoods	3 6
Ginebra	4 4	Tanduay	2 6

GAMES TOMORROW
(Cuneta Astrodome)
5:05 p.m.—Tanduay vs Talk N Text
7:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

WHEN Ron Riley is hot, expect an Alaska victory in the bag.

The Aces found this out as they repulsed the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, 108-102, en route to their third straight win last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Since Riley's arrival, the Aces have come out of a winless five-game slump and are now savoring a steady climb to the top at 3-5.

"He (Riley) is absolutely fantastic. He has a knack for making big shots for us down the stretch," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, who likened the Arizona State alum to Bobby Parks, a seven-time best import awardee in the late '80s to the '90s.

Last night was no different as Riley pumped 12 of his team-high 30 points in the final period that proved instrumental in sending the Hotdogs further down to the pits at 3-6.

With EJ Feihl back to sick bay and Andy Seigle still unable to play, Riley and Ali Peek converted the shaded area into a virtual playground as the Aces built a comfortable 103-86 spread barely three minutes left.

But the Aces thought their advantage was safe enough to justify a victory so they gave up a mean defensive stance and allowed the Hotdogs to crawl back.

Barangay Ginebra bolted out of a two-game slip with a 105-92 triumph over Pop Cola in the second game.

The Kings tied San Miguel Beer at 4-4, while handing the Panthers their third consecutive setback for a 4-5 record.

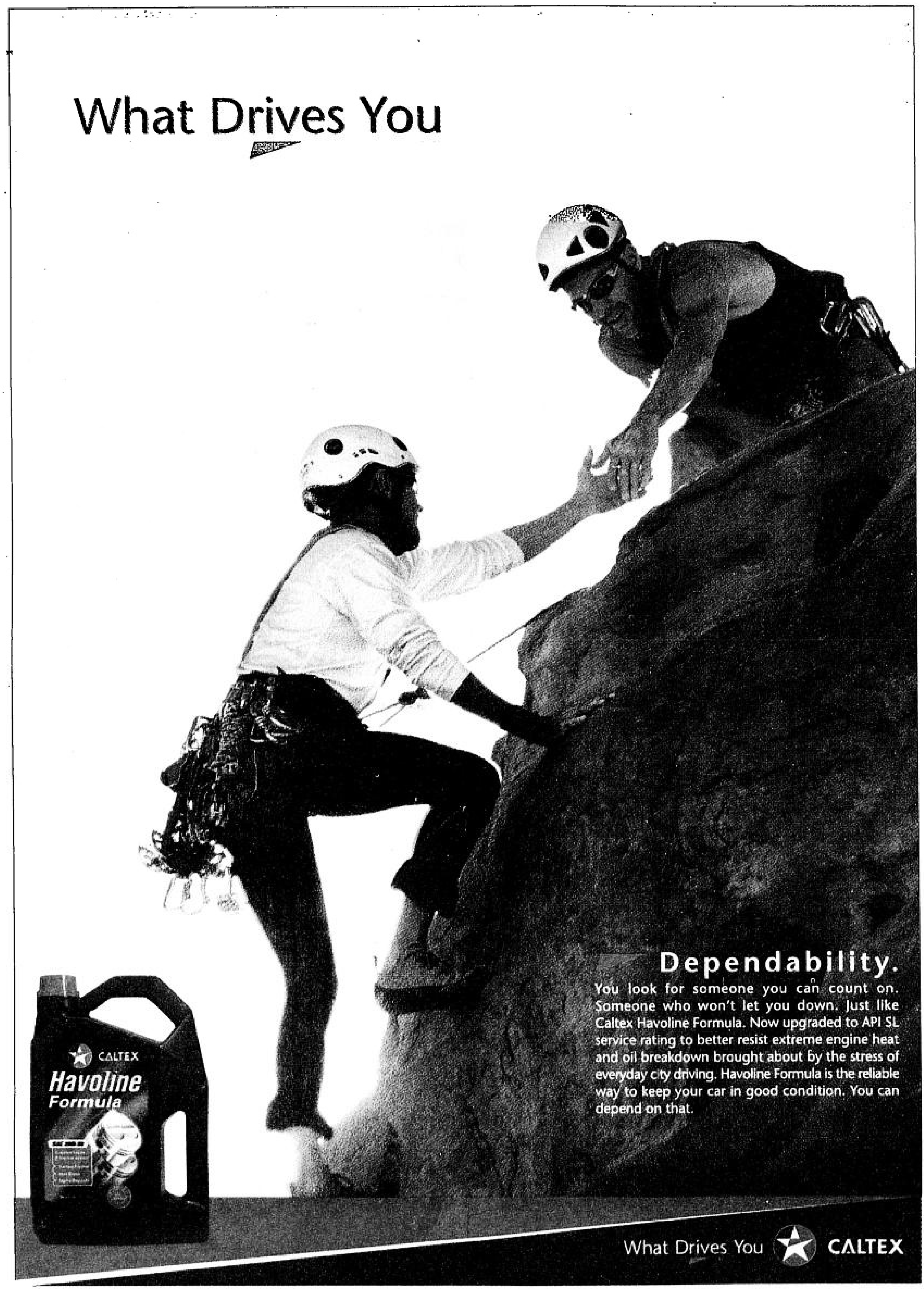
Scores:

ALASKA 108–Riley 30, Peek 23, Duremdes 21, Arigo 11, Santos 7, Allado 6, Gahol 4, Wallkvist 2, Ticzon 2, Ordonio 2.

PUREFOODS 102—Brown 48, Castillo 19, Patrimonio 16, Fernandez 8, Yee 6, Evangelista 5, Escobar 0, Yap 0.

Quarters: 22-26, 49-38, 76-68, 108-102.

PEEK: Power at shaded lane. FILE PHOTO



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What Drives You CALTEX

Sta. Lucia import charged for mauling man inside disco

By Alcuin Papa

FOR mauling a young man in Makati early yesterday morning, the import of Philippine Basketball Association team Sta. Lucia Realty found himself in hot water.

Damien Owens is now facing charges of physical injuries before the Makati City police for allegedly beating up Vicente Jose Campa, 24, of 891 Michigan St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Campa suffered bruises in different parts of his body.

According to Campa's sworn statement before SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal of the Makati City Police Homicide Section, the beating occurred at around 1:30 a.m. inside the Where Else Disco located at the Hotel Intercontinental along Ayala Avenue.

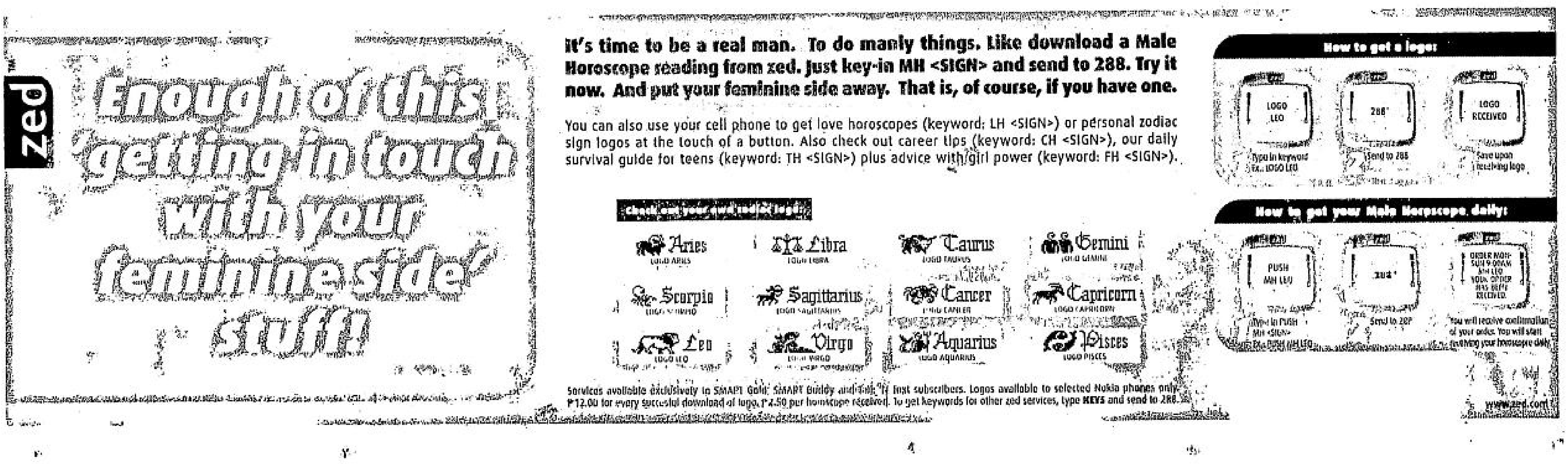
Campa said he was with a pretty young lady, whom he declined to identify, at that time and that Owens made a pass at her.

The young man confronted the import, who then punched Campa in the face. This resulted in a free-for-all inside the disco.

After the incident, Campa immediately proceeded to the Makati City Police headquarters to file his complaint.

A warrant of arrest is being prepared against Owens who is set to be picked up anytime this week.

OWENS



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METRO

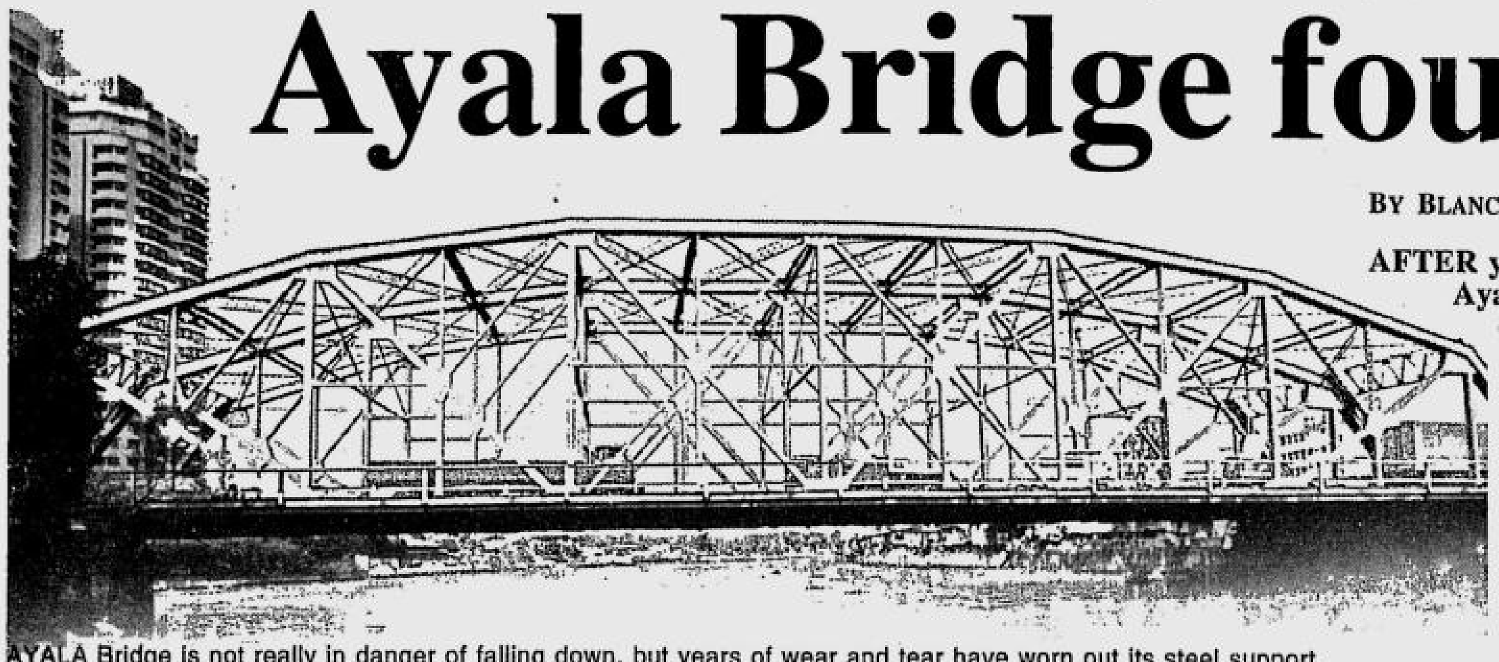
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Will big politicians revive fiberglass monster? A20

'State of emergency'

THE METRO Manila Development Authority yesterday declared a "state of emergency" in all cities and municipalities to avert a garbage crisis in the metropolis. MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said the declaration would allow the mayors to tap into their "calamity fund." He said the state of emergency would give the authority to executive officials to solve the garbage problem. *Alcuin Papa*

Ayala Bridge found too weak



AYALA Bridge is not really in danger of falling down, but years of wear and tear have worn out its steel support.

- Immediate repairs scheduled
- Total load capacity reduced

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

AFTER years of continuous use, the Ayala Bridge near Malacañang could give in due to its worn-out steel support.

This finding was confirmed yesterday by the Department of Public Works, which said immediate repairs must be undertaken on the aging bridge.

Public Works Undersecretary for Construction Operations Manuel Bonoan said the Ayala Bridge, which plies Ayala Boulevard and connects to San Miguel,

AYALA/A20

No need to worry about Metro water

BY AGNES DONATO

THE AYALA-OWNED Manila Water Company Inc. yesterday assured residents of the western Metro Manila that their drinking water was safe.

In an interview aired over radio station dzMM, Joel Lacsamana, corporate communications manager of Manila Water Company, said that the water supply in the metropolis goes through a thorough treatment process and is safe for drinking.

Lacsamana also reported that the water company has raised the red alert in various water treatment plants and dams, following reports of water contamination in Basilan by terrorists groups.

He said that the company had earlier gone on yellow alert immediately after the bombings in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon building in the United States.

A Marine contingent has been deployed to the Angat Dam in Bulacan while a military detachment is being maintained in the Ipo Dam in Nueva Ecija, Lacsamana said.

"Authorities are monitoring the watershed area and even the reservoir in these dams so closely that even ants would probably have a hard time getting close to our water supply," he added.

Lacsamana added that anyone who would try to contaminate the water supply could not possibly get near it without getting noticed, given the tight security in the treatment plants in La Mesa and in Balara, Quezon City.

"It will take truckloads of poison to contaminate our water and no one

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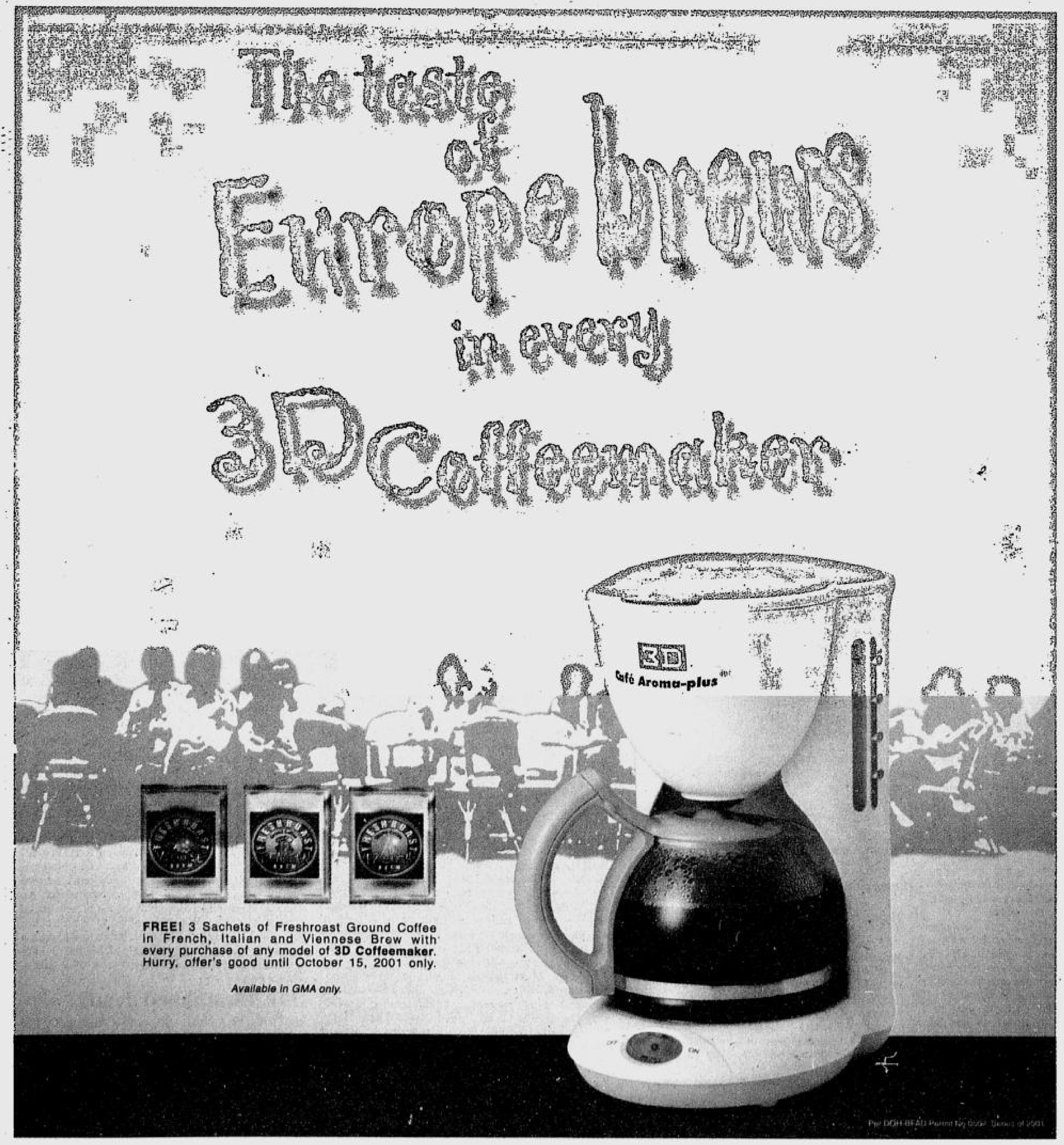

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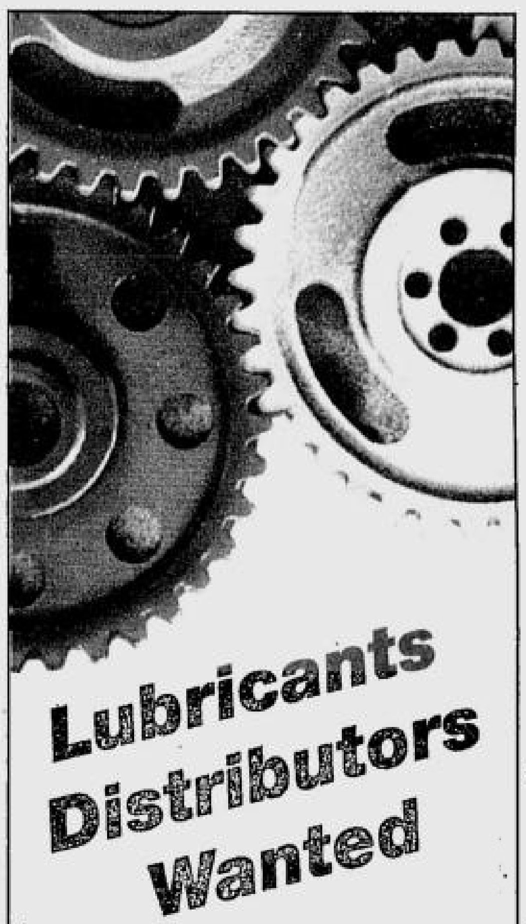

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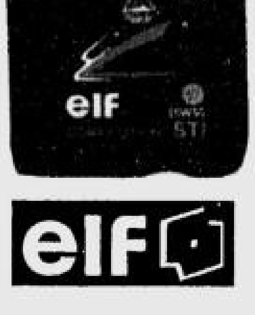
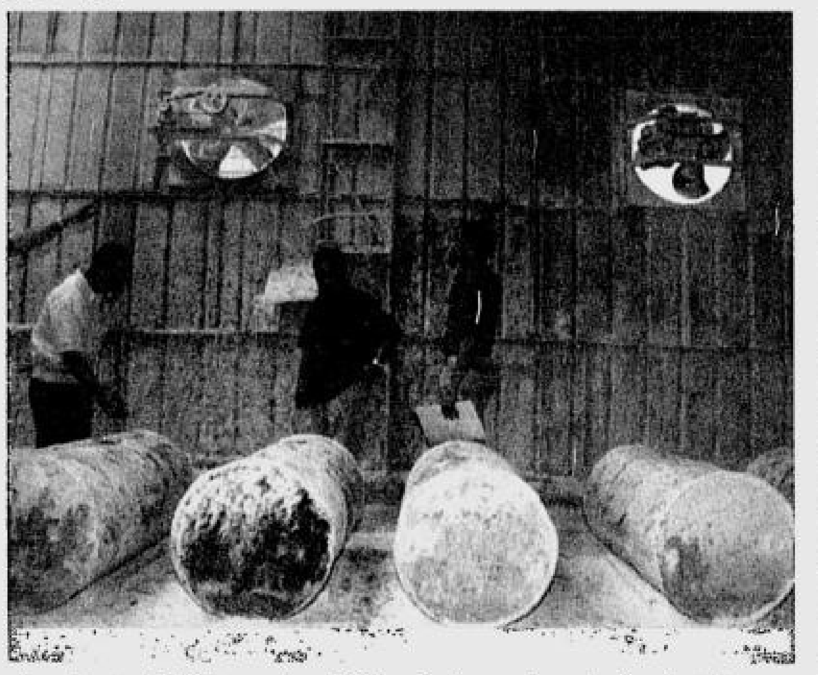
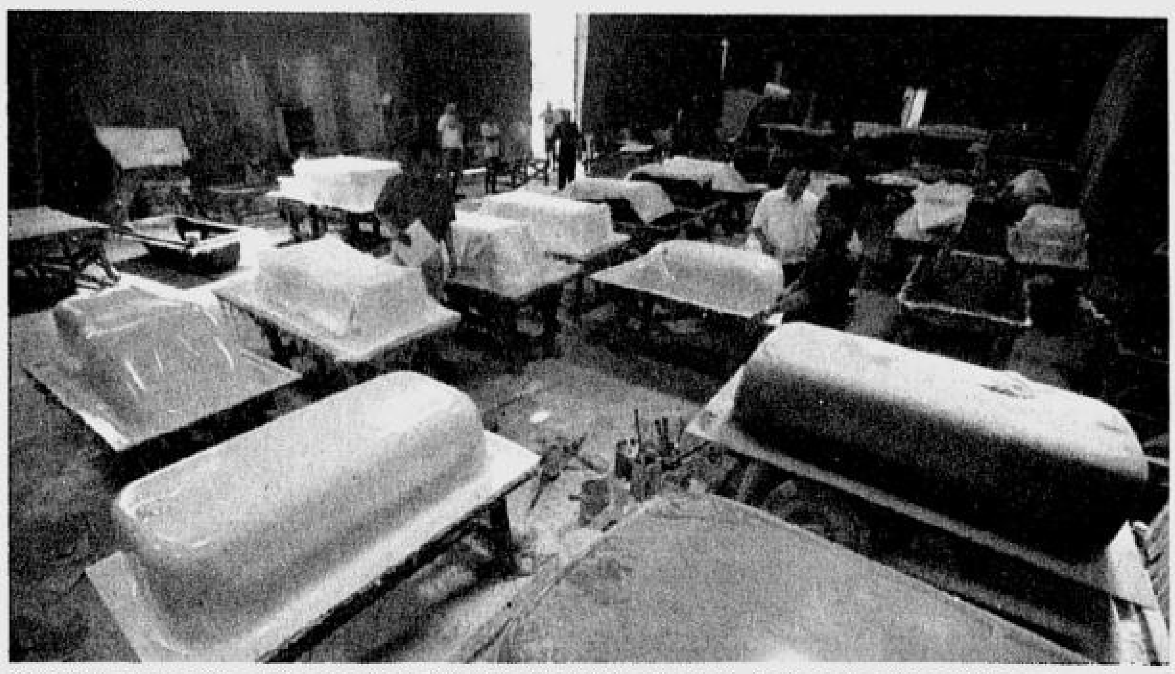


elf

Will big politicians revive fiberglass monster?





AFTER being thanked and commended for having stopped the harmful operations of a monster fiberglass factory, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday was stunned to receive screaming complaints from affected residents. It turned out that Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. on G. Aglipay Street in Barangay Saniga, Mandaluyong, owned by a certain Ernesto Yuyek, had resumed operations that again poisoned the air with noxious fumes and dust that doubly endangered the health and lives of residents.

Abalos wasted no time and issued a cease and desist order.

In the directive, Abalos said that, "upon verification from the DENR-NCR Environmental Management Bureau, it was found out that Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. has no Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and has not filed any such application with the said office."

For lacking a permit to operate air and water facilities, and an ECC, Anesco could be slapped a maximum of P50,000 and P100,000 fines.

But, after the previous actuations of its scheming owner, affected residents continue to fear that Anesco could resume its deathly operations soon. Residents suspect the owner of Anesco is being backed by bigger and more influential politicians.

IF THEY appear like coffins, instead of.finished bathtubs, it could be because these items are produced at the expense of the health of both workers and residents. A team composed of City Administrator Vic Victoria, Peace and Order Council executive Nandy Charvet, and City Environmental Supervisor Joey Abrigo (left) discovers the hidden production chamber that blows out deathly fumes in the direction of a thickly populated area in Mandaluyong. DENNIS SABANGAN

A hyprocritical TV network

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

POOR Sen. Loi Ejercito!

Up to now, she refuses to accept the fact that her husband, former President Erap, doesn't want to be photographed with her in public. On occasions when they were captured in photos or films in public, Erap and his mistresses had fights, according to a former bodyguard.

Reason: the mistresses—and there are several of them—were jealous of Loi!

Please don't ask which mistress. All of them wanted Loi out of the picture.

***

It should come as no surprise at all that Erap didn't want to attend a photo session Tuesday of senators and their spouses.

Sen. Tito Sotto and wife Helen Gamboa were there. So were Sen. Francis Pangilinan and wife Sharon Cuneta. The popular husband-and-wife team-up would have been complete if Erap attended that photo session.

Loi Ejercito took pains in asking the Sandiganbayan to allow her husband to be with her for that photo session meant for posterity.

***

But Erap didn't go despite the Sandiganbayan's permission. He said it would eat up "P1.5 million in taxpayers' money" the amount spent by the government whenever he was taken out of his cell at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

That's coming from a guy who didn't care about raiding the government coffers and getting hundreds of millions of pesos in commissions from proceeds of the sale of the shares of stock of a private company to the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

He expects Loi and the citizenry to believe his supposedly altruistic reason.

Tamaan ka sana ng kidlat, Erap! People wouldn't have been surprised if lightning struck you with your lie about not attending the Senate photo session.

***

I remember the stories of Dante Tan, the former president's crony, about how Erap would insult Loi in front of his friends.

"*Naaawa ako kay* (I pity the) First Lady, Mon," Tan would tell me during my drinking sessions with him. Tan said he admired Loi for her composure in the face of such public insults.

One such personal affront on the former first lady took place when Erap was having a drinking spree with his cronies in Malacañang in the early days of his presidency.

***

Over bottles of scotch (Erap had not yet shifted to wine), Erap said he didn't know the presidency would confine his movements. He complained to his friends he was always cooped up in "this big and lonely house" and could no longer drink in public.

To top his complaint, Erap looked at Loi. "And how would you enjoy staying in this big and lonely house with a woman with a face like this," Erap said pointing at Loi's face.

Loi just smiled. But Erap's cronies felt very uncomfortable, Dante Tan said.

***

The Sandiganbayan should reconsider its decision to exclude a live television coverage of the plunder trial of Erap.

It should bow to the wishes of the majority of the citizenry who wants to see the plunder trial live on TV.

Vox populi, vox Dei. The voice of the people is the voice of God.

***

If the Abu Sayyaf bandits make good their threat to execute the American missionary couple they're holding hostage, that's the end of them.

The US government will make everything possible for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to go after the terrorist group. Uncle Sam will give our military all the arms necessary to annihilate the Abu Sayyafs who are suspected of receiving support from Osama Bin Laden.

The Abu Sayyaf is the reason why no less than the commander-in-chief of the US forces in the Pacific is coming to the Philippines to help in fighting our home-grown Muslim terrorists.

***

Some officials of a big TV network—the one that purports to protect children from being sexually exploited—have been the subject of complaints of sexual harassment.

A former account sales executive of this network complained to me that she was kicked out of the company after she didn't give in to the sexual advances of her boss, one of the highest officials of the network.

She said the case of sexual harassment she filed against the TV network official with the Quezon City prosecutor's office was dropped. The network, she said, pressured the prosecutor handling the investigation to drop the case.

***

I learned from this former network employee that another official of the TV network is fond of young female talents who apply for slots in TV dramas.

The network official seduces young talent applicants by brandishing to them good roles in the drama. His style is no different from movie producers and directors who force would-be actresses to have sex with them in exchange for a movie role.

Tsk, tsk, tsk. This TV network claims to champion the underprivilege and the children. But the exploiters of the children and underprivilege come from within. What hypocrisy !

Ayala Bridge . . .

(From page A19)

Manila, may not be able to withstand the 40-ton load for long.

"If we don't repair it soon, that's a possibility, it will not be able to take the load, so we are repairing it now," Bonoan said.

"That's why we have to immediately look for the money to do it."

Bonoan made these revelations yesterday after a meeting between DPWH officials and members of the House committee on public works.

The DPWH is scheduled to start repairs on the bridge next week.

The Ayala Bridge was first built in 1872 by Don Bocobo Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala-Roxas family. It was reconstructed in 1908 making use of steel materials. It was refurbished in 1997, with the Ayala Group of Companies as sponsor.

The existing steel levers that had weakened considerably due to wear and tear would be replaced, Bonoan said.

He however did not specify which segment needed replacements.

The agency will also have to reduce the total vehicular load of the bridge from the 40-ton capacity to only 10 tons during the course of the repairs, which will last until December.

Bonoan identified another bridge in the South expressway that also needs repairing because of a hole on the concrete span, but he said they are giving priority to the Ayala Bridge.

In anticipation of the traffic congestion that would be caused by the repairs, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is expected to deploy more traffic aides in the area to redirect vehicles, especially the heavy ones.

Bonoan explained there were no cracks on the bridge itself but said the structures needed reinforcement just to ensure that it could continue to hold the 40 tons of moving vehicles.

"This is a repair work that needs to be done. We assess national roads so we know," Bonoan said, dismissing fears that the Ayala bridge was no longer safe.

'Anthrax scare a virus of massive publicity'

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Alcuin Papa

THE PANIC spawned by the anthrax virus, which has become "an epidemic of massive publicity," may be more harmful to the people than the threat of bioterrorism itself, a health group warned yesterday.

According to Dr. Jojo Carabeo, secretary general of the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), he is more concerned with how the people would react to the perceived threat than the virus' immediate effects on victims.

"There may be real cases, but the panic the US and Philippine governments elicited is more terrifying than the alleged bioterrorism," Carabeo told the Inquirer.

The anthrax scare on Monday swept throughout Muntinlupa City as police and local health officials went on full alert after a jeepney driver complained of getting sick when he came into contact with an envelope which allegedly contained "a chemical powder."

According to police reports, Santiago Valentin, 52, of Purok 7, PNR site, Putatan, Muntinlupa, went to the Muntinlupa City Lying-In Center about 9 p.m. and complained that he was suffering from itching and an allergic reaction.

Valentin said that his neighbor went to him and reported that her husband, a driver, found a plastic bag inside his jeepney which was said to have been left behind by two male Muslims, police said.

When Valentin opened the plastic bag, he found eight mail envelopes inside measuring 4 x 8 inches with "Kemika Enterprises" written on them. The victim allegedly opened one of the envelopes and accidentally inhaled the "violet powder" inside.

He claimed he immediately felt flushed while his eyes and nose itched. Thinking the substance was a virus, maybe even anthrax, he immediately went to the clinic, police said.

Attending physician Dr. Azucena Velasco examined the patient and ordered Valentin to wash his eyes and nose with soap.

Velasco later told the Inquirer that she did not recommend Valentin to be confined. Still, she said she prescribed antibiotics for the patient.

Velasco then called the Muntinlupa police to report the incident and turned over the envelope containing the mysterious powder to the police.

Investigator SPO4 Armando Alambro then sent the substance to the Philippine National Police Crime Lab for analysis. Results have not yet been released at press time.

But the Muntinlupa City government immediately denied that Valentin was exposed to anthrax. City officials said they checked on the condition of Valentin yesterday and found the victim to be fine.

Velasco said they would continue to monitor Valentin's medical condition as well as that of residents in his area.

The Central Police District yesterday advised residents to dial 117 if they received mail which could be tainted.

CPD director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor also directed all station chiefs to be alert when they respond to calls involving parcels suspected to be contaminated.

Tor also reminded his men to cordon off the area where the contaminated package has been delivered and immediately call the Department of Health reaction team.

"If there are suspicious packages, we call on the public to call us up immediately," said Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante, CPD public information officer.

Death for kidnappers branded discriminatory

By Jerome Aning

PRO-RICH and pro-Chinese.

This was how an anti-crime group described yesterday President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to impose the death penalty for convicted kidnappers.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said it is appalled by the decision and expressed "deep concern" over its possible implications to other crime cases.

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said the Chief Executive's apparent change in policy was "selective and discriminatory" since it was the result of a clamor from the Chinese-Filipino community and business groups.

"It's the rich who get kidnapped for ransom," he told the **Inquirer** over the phone. "Many poor Filipinos are victims of drug pushers, rape, murders and economic plunder."

Jimenez said that "judiciously applying the capital punishment on kidnappers to the exclusion of other types of heinous crimes is grossly demoralizing and painfully unjust to other victims of heinous crimes who are also equally expecting justice."

He added that the decision could project the wrong image that in the country, even the imposition and implementation of punishments for crimes are based on economic status.

"Why single out only kidnappers to die of lethal injections while categorically sparing rapists and killers of our innocent women and children, plunderers of millions and drug traffickers whose greed is the root cause of all these infamy ruining us?" he added.

Jimenez also pointed out what he said was an "apparent bias" against Filipinos in the composition of civilian representatives to the National Anti-Crime Commission.

He questioned the alleged proliferation of Chinese representatives to the high-level national anti-crime body.

"Is this a carefully tailored move to appease the Chinese business community?" he added.

No need . . .

(From page A19)

who dares to do so could possibly carry out his plan without attracting attention," he said.

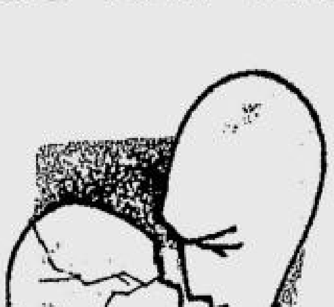
He also explained that from Ipo Dam to La Mesa, water flows through an aqueduct which is buried about 10 meters below the ground, making it safe from dirt or any contaminants.

From the treatment plant, there are also at least 500 random sampling points in which the Department of Health, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the water companies conduct tests to ensure the quality of water being distributed to the households, Lacsamana added.

Meanwhile, the Central Police District yesterday assured the public that it has already secured La Mesa Dam and the Old Balara treatment plant, the two major sources of Metro Manila water supply. ***With a report from Andrea T. Echaves***

Dying for love and hate in Tondo

By Philip C. Tubeza



A YOUNG man took his own life after he was rebuffed by the girl he loved. Another young man killed his father for hurting his mother. Both incidents happened in Tondo, Manila.

Alvin L. Pascual, 18, committed suicide on Tuesday inside his house at 2701 Racho Alley, Lico Street, Tondo, Manila after his crush had dashed his hopes of a romantic relationship with her, said investigator SPO1 Edmundo Cabal, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Pascual's mother told police she saw her son alive for the last time about lunchtime and noticed that he was depressed.

She said she did not worry, thinking her son would get over his depression.

But about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Pascual's father found his son dead, apparently from suicide, on the second floor of their house, police said.

The father told police he then called up barangay security officials.

Pascual's body was brought to the police morgue for an autopsy.

Also on Tuesday, student Galahad C. Adlawan, of 468 Area H., Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila stabbed dead his drunken father Orlando B. Adlawan for bashing the face of his mother with a water pitcher, said investigator SPO3 Alfredo C. Salazar, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

The older Adlawan has been drinking beer with his buddies since 7 a.m. Tuesday, but left the group to go to their house where he chanced upon his wife Delma who was tending to some vegetables, police said.

The drunken Adlawan shouted invectives at his wife, took a pitcher of water, and then bashed her face with it.

Mrs. Adlawan was wounded from the blow and one of her children came to her rescue.

The suspect returned, saw his wounded mother and was enraged. The younger Adlawan then took a knife, went after his father who was on his way to join his drinking buddies and stabbed him in the back.

The younger Adlawan escaped after the stabbing.

The older Adlawan was declared dead on arrival at the Gat Andres Hospital.

METROBRIEFS

Rapist gets 2 death sentences

FOR RAPING the 8-year-old daughter of his live-in partner last year, a parking attendant was given two death sentences by a Pasay City Court. In her eight-page decision, Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Lilia Lopez of Branch 109 also ordered the accused, a 42-year-old resident of Pasay City and a native of Leyte, to pay his victim P250,000 in damages. The victim was playing with another child on Sept. 8 last year about 7 p.m. in front of the Meralco office on F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City when the convicted rapist called her then brought her to a parked jeepney where he raped her, court records showed. The victim's brother witnessed the rape and reported it to their mother. When confronted, the accused denied the rape, but he again raped the girl on Jan. 16 this year. The girl's mother then filed rape charges against her live-in partner. *Alcuin Papa*

Thrill killer in Morong

MORONG police are hunting down a suspected thrill-killer who stabbed dead construction worker William Lucinada, 35. SPO4 Benjamin Samson, Rizal Provincial Police Office information officer, said an intensified police operation has been conducted after two days of regular probe failed to produce results. An unidentified assailant repeatedly stabbed Lucinada on Sunday in a dimly lit portion of De la Paz Street in Barangay Maybangkal in Morong. Police said Lucinada was drunk after attending a local celebration and appeared to have been taken by surprise by his assailant. ***Nelson Forte Flores***

Boy, 16, stabbed dead

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Alexander Austria, of 176 Balubad St., Nangka Marikina, was stabbed dead during a heated argument with his friends on Tuesday night. Police said Austria and members of his gang were discussing their next gimmick when an argument erupted among them. One of his friends then pulled out a knife and stabbed Austria twice, police said. Austria's friends escaped after the stabbing. ***Nelson Forte Flores***

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
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EASTERN	
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ODEON	MANANABAS
ODEON-2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM . . . FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	MANANABAS
REMAR-2	NAKED NIGHTS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	THE HOLE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANANABAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-2	THE BODY
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
CINEMA-4	MAGDALENO ORBOS

Leading artists interpret Hotdog

THE COUNTRY'S premiere music artists pay tribute to the music of Hotdog in the album "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog" from BMG Records Pilipinas.

The Hotdog, composed of Rene and Dennis Garcia, created the Manila Sound, that distinct Pinoy music that hit it big in the '70s. With Manila Sound, Tagalog songs were no longer called "bakya."

The Hotdog brought new meaning to Tagalog lyrics and the songs became the social order of the day. Original Pilipino Music appealed to everyone regardless of stature, age and gender.

Starting in the mid-'70s, the Hotdog made 12 albums with numerous songs still unreleased. Their music remains en vogue even to this day of fusion, rap, hip-hop and rock and roll.

"Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog" contains 10 songs revived by Eraserheads, Cookie Chua and Color it Red, Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All Stars, Chill, Parokya Ni Edgar, True Faith, Aquarella, Ascolto and one cut by the Hotdog themselves titled "Bandang Pinoy."

Eraserheads sings "Manila;" Cookie Chua, "Pers Lab;" Barbie's Cradle, "Langit Nga Naman;" Brownbeat All Stars, "Panaginip;" Color it Red, "Bongga Ka 'Day;" Chill, "Dying to Tell You;" Parokya ni Edgar, "Beh Bote Nga;" True Faith, "Ikaw Ang Ms Universe;" Aquarella, "Oh Lumapit Ka;" and Ascolto, "Annie Batungbakal."

The album is available in CD and cassette formats.

Hajji, Rachel together in 1 show

HAJJI Alejandro and his daughter Rachel Alejandro perform together for the first time in a concert called "Just the Two of Us."

"Just the Two of Us" is to be presented by HSBC at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Hajji will sing songs from his 25-year career while Rachel will do her own hits like "Kay Tagal," as well as favorites from the stage and the music charts.

One of the most interesting collaborations in the show will be "Nakapagtataka." The song was a Hajji hit first; Rachel revived it and made it a hit again.

Rachel is taking time out from her performance as Mimi in the Broadway musical "Rent," which is being staged in Manila for the second time.

Tickets to "Just the Two of Us" are available at the Mandarin Oriental, Tower Records in Makati and in Alabang, and Incus Productions.

For inquiries, call 637-1836 or 637-1837.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Shangri-La Plaza HUGGIES TIMELINE

The World of Music 2001
October 20
Manila Symphony Orchestra
Prof. Arturo Molina, conductor
THE WORLD OF MUSIC

Manila Symphony Orchestra
Prof. Arturo Molina, conductor

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'LANDMARK CASE'

7 ordered arrested for music piracy

THE MANDALUYONG Regional Trial Court has ordered the arrest of seven people accused of violating the intellectual property law.

Judge Rizalina T. Capco-Umali of Branch 212 of the Mandaluyong RTC ordered the arrest of George Ang, Jasmin Ang, Ricky Ala, Lee Chung Sang, Lam Kwok Chan, Cathy Ang and Choy Ma Tak, all of whom have been charged with music piracy.

According to the charge sheet, the seven were accused of violating Republic Act No. 8293, or The Intellectual Property Code.

Judge Capco-Umali ordered the issuance of new arrest warrants after authorities failed to apprehend the suspects or return the first warrants of arrest issued against them last Feb. 21.

The criminal cases stemmed from a complaint filed by the Philippine Association of Record Industry (PARI) through its president Danilo P. Olivares, who alleged that the recordings of its member record companies were illegally being reproduced by the accused at their reproduction plant on Maryland Street in Cubao, Quezon City. The suspects assembled and stored the reproductions in their office at 92 Araullo St. in Mandaluyong City.

Judge Edwin D. Sorongon of the Mandaluyong RTC Branch 214 and Judge Victorino P. Evangelista of Quezon City RTC Branch 223 issued search warrants on the basis of applications filed by the National Bureau of Investigation.

This led to a raid by an NBI team under senior agent Dominador Villanueva of the Anti-Smuggling and Anti-Piracy of Intellectual Property Rights Division (ASAP-IPRD) on June 9, 2001 and the confiscation of 3,444 audio CDs with jewel boxes, 18,556 audio CDs without jewel boxes, 762 video compact discs, 38 boxes of pirated CD labels and covers, 50 pages of artworks, 66 pages of song titles, a journal, a memorandum to employees, and 1,133 discs.

Olivares in a press statement declared that "this is a landmark case since this is the very first case of illegal replication and distribution operations that has been resolved by the Department of Justice and elevated to the courts."

The recording industry loses an estimated P1 billion a year due to piracy, according to Olivares.

Regal tops roster of active film producers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVERYONE agrees that 2000 was one of the leanest film years in recent history, with local movie production being drastically reduced from its usual annual total of around 120 movies.

What isn't clear, however, is exactly how many feature films were produced last year. One source puts the total down to a shocking 79. But another study comes up with 103 titles released last year—still a drop, but not quite as bad as previously believed.

However, a detailed look at the titles of films shown last year clears up much of the disparity: 17 of the 103 titles for 2000 were in fact reissues, bringing the total of new releases for the year down to 86.

In any case, which was the busiest film studio last year? No contest: Regal Entertainment beat everybody else by a cinematic mile with an output of 21 films last year. Next came Viva Entertainment with 12, Millennium Cinema with 9, Star Cinema with 8.

And? The remaining studios with more than one new film each are Taurus (3), ATB-4 (3), El Niño (3), Seiko (2), Starlight (2), FLT (2), World Arts (2), Manoli (2) and MMG (2).

One film apiece: Cinema Artist, Levin, Sunlight, MNR, RVM, Reyna Films, Amaritz, Leo, Ashio, Crystal, RVQ, GMA and MAQ.

That's a total of only 25 movie studios that remained active last year—and half of that number made only one movie apiece. Hard times, indeed.

Also noteworthy is the fact that at least one-third of the movies shown last year had strong sexual content, films with correspondingly unblushing titles like "Masarap Habang Mainit," "Nag-aapoy na Laman," "Mapagbigay," "Senswal," "Samantha . . . Hiyas," "Alipin ng Tukso," "Kamandag ng Rosas"—and "Arayyy!"

The large number of sex-oriented productions is par for the course during lean film times, because sexy flicks can be made for a relative pittance, as long as producers can get hot-to-trot newcomers to bare their "assets" for all the world to see.

Interestingly, however, viewers last year started to get tired even of graphic sensuality and nudity, except the sexy movies that featured relatively "classy" stars and some production values. Thus, in 2001, producers have veered away from the "sexy-cheapie-quickie" formula of Film Year 2000, and have made fewer but bigger-budgeted sexy movies.

Another big film type favored by producers last year was action. In its various forms (action-drama, action-comedy, action-sexy, etc.), the action format made up another third of the total number of movies produced in the year 2000.

Surprisingly, however, most of last year's action movies didn't star action superstars but middle-range or relatively new macho stars. The lean film times simply couldn't rationalize the payment of the action superstars' excessively huge salaries.

Besides, viewers had gotten tired of the action superstars' hackneyed and knee-jerk characterizations, as indicated by the poor showing of many of their starrers in recent film seasons.

The last third of last year's movie output was made up of dramas, comedies and the minor film types. Some of the dramas surprised the movie industry when they turned out to be major hits, like "Tanging Yaman" and "Anak."

This further indicated that not only was the movie audience fed up with quickies and formula films, but it was also looking for inspiration and outstanding production values, and was ready to reward movies with those qualities with their enthusiastic patronage.

Last year's trend has continued in 2001, making this year a better period for local movies, and even showing the way out of the rut that our films have languished in for the past five years or so. Hope springs!

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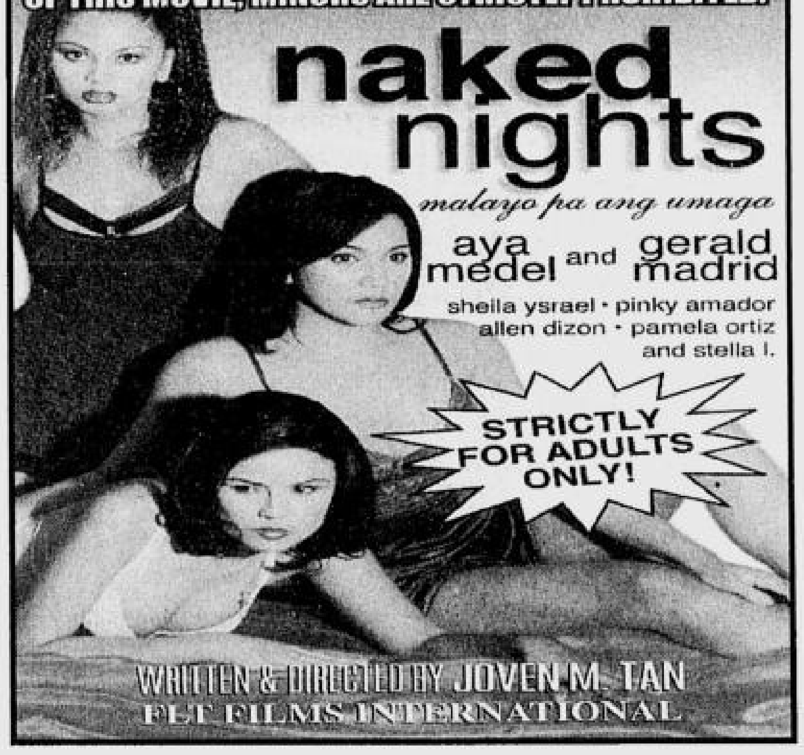
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AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:05, 1:20, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

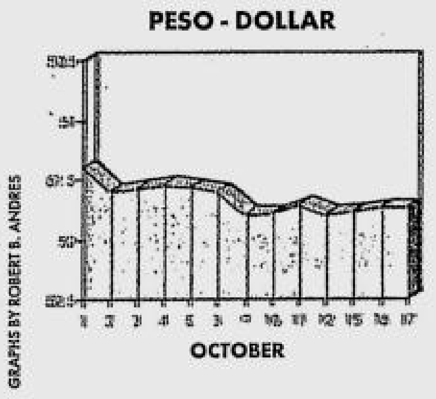
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

9-month budget gap swells to ₱122B

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

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GOLD:$281.60/282.10
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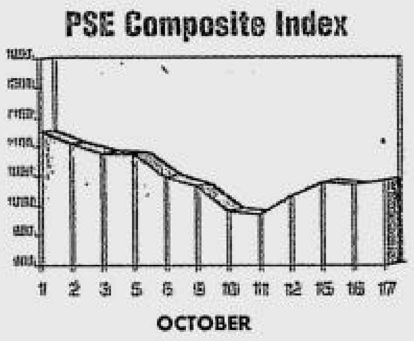
STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES ended higher yesterday, boosted by interest in select oversold blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 7.10 points, or 0.7 percent, at 1043.01, after falling 0.5 percent Tuesday.

Index heavyweight PLDT was among the most active, closing 0.7-percent higher at P380. There was talk that Japan's Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. may buy up to 20 percent of PLDT unit Smart Communications, traders said. PLDT earlier said it might sell a minor interest in Smart to raise much-needed funds to settle a portion of $1.3 billion in obligations maturing in the next three years.

The strong resolve of the government to address the country's peace-and-order problems may have also improved sentiment in the market, traders said.

Most notable is the military's offensive against Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels and increased efforts to stamp out kidnapping, trader said.

However, they said concern over a looming US economic recession and the scheduled release of third-quarter earnings of Philippine companies may weigh on the stock market. *AP*

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

BUDGET DEFICIT
145B Target
steph8.

THE MACAPAGAL administration's budget deficit has ballooned to P122.152 billion in the first nine months of the year, exceeding by 1.7 percent the target of P120.19 billion as revenue collection continued to falter even as spending remained under control.

With the higher-than-expected deficit level, the government risks surpassing its P145-billion target for the year as it needs to contain the deficit in the last quarter to not more than P22.8 billion, or almost the same level as the September budget gap of P22.625 billion.

Although government spending of P528.134 billion from January to September was slightly lower than the programmed amount of P529.824 billion, the savings were not enough to offset a P3.646-billion shortfall in revenue collection, which reached only P405.982 billion against the target of P409.628 billion.

Analysts and traders said the nine-month deficit only confirmed the fear of the financial market that the government would exceed its target, which explains its local and foreign borrowing binge.

But National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government would still meet the P145 billion target. "We have no doubt about meeting this year's budget deficit target."

A trader said these were big words and the market would let the numbers speak for themselves.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue still posted a collection shortfall of P2.931 billion in the first nine months to P282.896 billion although in September alone, its earnings were P2.333 billion more than the target at P24.662 billion.

The Bureau of Customs had a bigger deficiency as it posted a shortfall of P3.436 billion during the nine-month period after collections amounted to only P72.272 billion. Of the total, P1.031 billion of the deficiency was registered by the Customs in September when collections hit only P8.489 billion.

Offsetting the deficit of the two agencies, the Bureau of Treasury chalked up earnings of P29.73 billion from January to September or P9.123 billion more than its target. In September alone, the Treasury surpassed its target by P1.074 billion at P4.944 billion.

Earnings from fees and charges reached only P21.08 billion or P6.4 billion lower than the nine-month target. The government was able to raise only about P843 million from the sale of its small-ticket items.

On the spending side, the government settled P131.639 billion in interest payments, or P4.944 billion lower than the target due to lower interest rates on its huge domestic borrowings.

The government tried to curtail spending in September as expenditures reached only P63.043 billion or almost P3 billion lower than what had been set aside. Interest payments for September was also P349 million lower at P20.208 billion.

An analyst pointed out that the only way the government could contain its deficit was by cutting spending.

But any belt-tightening now would be done at the expense of domestic economic growth.

"We will have to cut spending if revenues do not come in," Edeza said.

WORLD BANK ASSESSMENT

US attacks to prolong Asian slump by 9 months

EAST Asia's economic slump is likely to last well into next year due to the terrorist attacks in the United States, slowing efforts to reduce the region's sprawling poverty, the World Bank said yesterday.

The attacks, at a time when the region was already suffering from the sudden end of the technology boom, will slow investment decisions, dampen consumer confidence in export markets and reduce tourism to East Asia, a World Bank statement said.

"The recovery is at least six months further off, perhaps nine months," said Homi Kharas, the World Bank's chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific.

"This delay will mean fewer jobs and less household income," he said. "The outcome will certainly be bad news for the region's poor."

The bank's half-yearly regional update predicts that growth in developing East Asia would fall to 4.6 percent this year from 7.3 percent in 2000, the Manila office of the World Bank said.

It would recover only mildly to about 5 percent next year in what would be the region's weakest year since it recorded zero growth during the Asian financial crisis in 1998.

"The past year was already shaping up to be a difficult one for the region, with cyclical downturn in the IT sector, hurting a number of countries across the region, pushing some to recession and others below levels of growth which would maintain employment," Kharas said.

The World Bank said the hardest hit have been the "open, middle and upper-income economies" of Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea, as well as Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

China and Vietnam were less affected, and Indonesia was reaping the benefits of greater political stability, it added.

For these reasons, the impact on poverty would likely be less severe than in other parts of the world because those most affected have low poverty levels and have the strongest financial systems and public sector management, the bank said.

US/ B5

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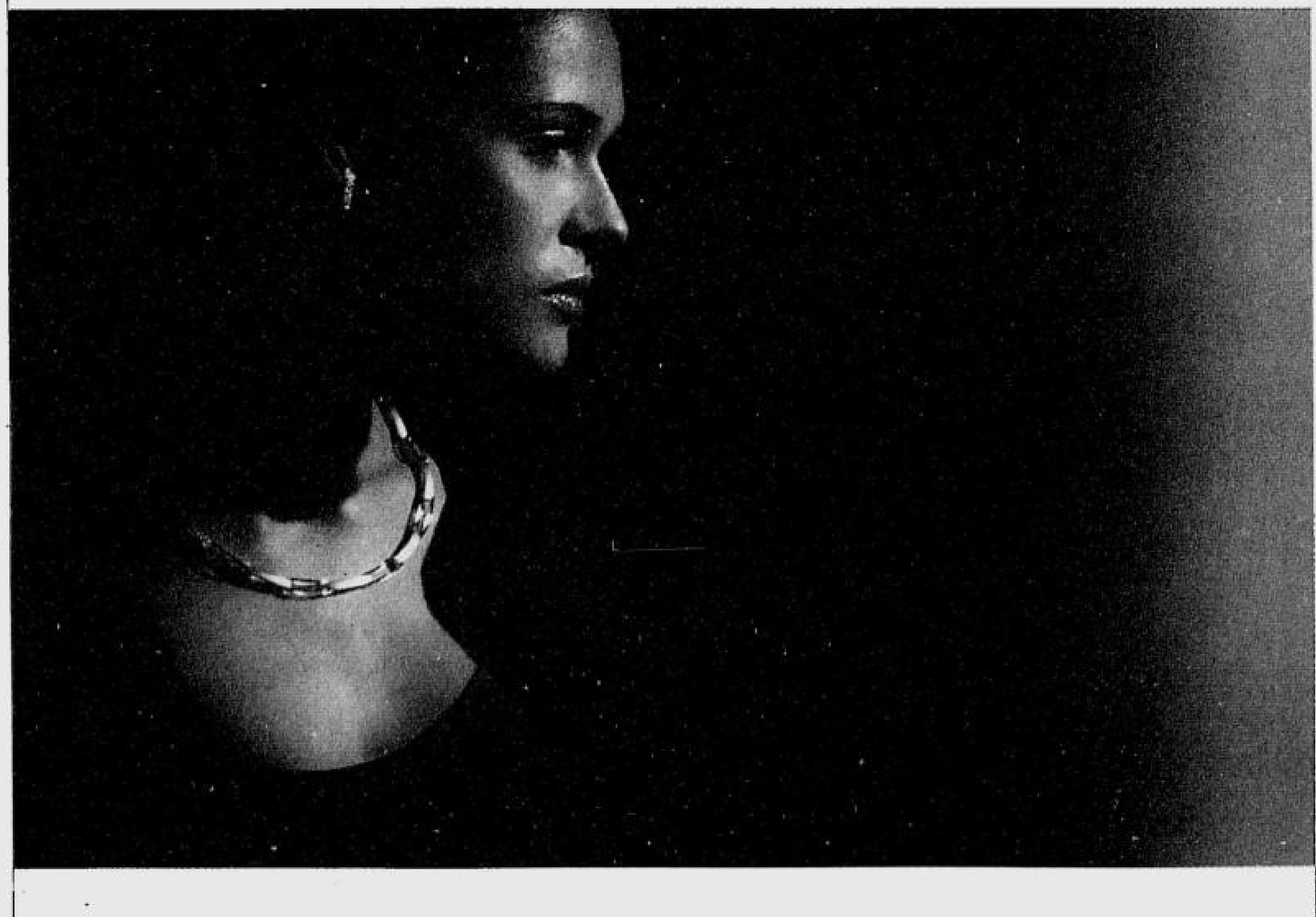

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For better or for woes

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FIRST of all, regarding this hot issue on the Naia Terminal 3, let me tell you one thing: I don't care for either of the protagonists—whether Piatco or Maso.

To me, for better or for worse, they are just after their own business interests. I am not saying it's wrong. As of yesterday, it was still not a crime to make money here.

But I think we should all raise hell if, in doing their business—meaning, making their hundreds of billions—they are giving it to us in the . . . well, you know where.

For that seems to be the case in this Terminal 3 project. Somebody is going to make a killing. Guess at whose expense! Yours and mine, of course, who else's?

Forget the brouhaha about the Piatco contract's being "disadvantageous" to the government. I don't think the government cares. It is going to get a share in the loot.

* * *

ALL RIGHT, I know that this cute administration already announced that it is reviewing the contract. Well and good. I only think it was all just meant to calm down the natives.

I mean, you just can't expect this cute administration to change the contract all of a sudden. Believe me, somebody big in this cute administration is backing it.

If the review is just like afternoon soap, then the restless "natives" in Congress may finally have a swell time tearing the contract into pieces.

I heard the opposition in Congress is dying to pry open the multibillion-peso contract between Piatco and the government. They're after that big somebody, what else?

For who's doing the review in this cute administration but Cabinet members. They are doing it secretly. Who knows what mysteries happen behind closed doors?

* * *

ANYWAY, unable to say "no" to a respected colleague, I agreed to meet up with Piatco's spokesperson, lawyer Moises Tolentino, who denied all the claims of Maso.

Nowhere in the contract, according to Tolentino, does it say that the government guarantees the debts of Piatco, neither directly or indirectly.

He may be correct, and even in television talk shows, Maso's spokesperson Perfecto Yasay, the former SEC chair, himself cannot point out the provision for the guarantee.

I really don't care about Maso's claim. For all we know, the government does not have to guarantee Piatco's loans, because it already guarantees Piatco's income.

Tell me which is better? A loan guarantee exposes the government. An income guarantee only exposes us, the public, who use the airport terminal. We are expendable.

* * *

TOLENTINO told me I was wrong in saying that Piatco merely grabbed the project from the local taipans, whose Emerging Dragons actually got it as an unsolicited proposal.

He said Piatco won in the bidding fair and square, through the so-called "Swiss challenge," because the taipans could not even match Piatco's offer.

It seems that, under the contract, Piatco is going to give the government at least P510 million every year. The taipans would only give free chewing gum or something.

Well and good! I don't care for the taipans, either. They had all the chances in the world to pursue the project, but they dilly-dallied. Now we are . . .!

Tolentino said Piatco's was the better offer. Sure, and I am going to be the next Cardinal of Manila. It's not as if Piatco will get the money from out of its own pocket.

* * *

THE way Tolentino talked, like some other supporters of Piatco, it's as if Piatco is giving the government the money outright—its own money. No freaking way!

Guess what, Piatco will get the money from us! My computation shows that, under the contract, Piatco and the government stand to earn about P100 billion.

Of course Piatco gets a much, much bigger share. But even if the situation is reversed, and the government gets more, I don't think it's a just and fair contract.

What I am saying is, our beloved government simply conspires with Piatco to get the money from us. This was made possible because Piatco was the highest bidder.

In a way, Piatco bested the taipans by promising the government that it would take more money from us to give to the government, at least more than the taipans would.

* * *

THAT was what the bidding was all about—who could get most money from the public to give to the government. I always thought it should have been the other way around.

Years ago, I pointed out that an airport, by its nature, has public interest. It is always a monopoly. You cannot privatize everything. Not security! Heaven help us!

People have no choice but to use this particular airport. Therefore, the main criterion in the bidding should have been the lowest bidder.

It's really who can offer the lowest possible fee for the public. Why? Because an airport is a public utility. As it is, under the contract, Piatco is free to charge as it pleases.

This is the lone issue I took up with Tolentino, actually, on which we even spent considerable time doing the math. My arithmetic teacher would have been proud.

* * *

YOU see, Piatco is charging each of us, if we use the terminal, a fixed amount of $20. Well, for now! Piatco can just wake up one morning and just decide to raise it.

Which, by the way, Piatco can do, as I understand the wordings in the contract, although Tolentino said it will still need approval of the government.

Whatever it is, whether he is wrong or I was right, is immaterial. The fact is that under the contract, from only $10 per today, we have to cough off $20 each.

Some 8 million passengers use the airport every year. Tolentino said that's both ways, coming and going, and only departing passengers pay the terminal fee.

Alright, so half of 8 million is 4 million. Some of them are exempted from paying the fee, according to Tolentino. Does anybody really bother to get the exemption?

* * *

ANYWAY, so let's say that only half of 4 million, or 4 million passengers, pay Piatco the terminal fee. Whadayano, it still amounts to a lot of money.

For such a very charitable estimate of the volume, Piatco already stands to earn P2 billion. Just terminal fees alone! Tolentino said the government gets P600 million.

Well and good. So Piatco gets P1.4 billion. And under the contract, Piatco needs to charge the public such an amount for maintenance.

Every year, Piatco wants to spend P1.4 billion for maintenance. What kind of toilet do they have in the terminal, anyway? Gold?

And the government must keep quiet because, Piatco argued, it is getting much more from the Piatco contract.

What if I promise P1 billion to the government every year, and I charge all of you $100 per? Surely, while it gives you woe, mine is a better offer to the government.

Bangko Sentral considers new rate cut

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is dangling the possibility of another modest cut in its key policy rates in the coming weeks if the US Federal Reserve would reduce short-term interest rate anew by another half-a-percentage point.

"Assuming that the US Fed drops by another 50 basis points, we would probably do half of what they will do," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

But during its regular meeting today, the policy-making Monetary Board is likely to keep the central bank's overnight rates steady at 8.75 percent for borrowing and 11 percent for lending.

The US Fed is scheduled to meet in early November, and Buenaventura said there was a big chance that that US monetary authorities would pare down the rate anew by another 50 basis points to 2 percent from the current 2.5 percent.

Buenaventura pointed out, however, that any Monetary Board decision would be guided more by the movements in local inflation and exchange rates although the Fed action would provide an important push.

The central bank chief explained that local monetary authorities would also like to maintain a desired interest rate differential against US rates to prevent any capital flight.

Currently, the interest rate differential stands "abnormally high" at 6.25 percent with the US rate of 2.5 percent against the BSP borrowing rate of 8.75 percent.

But the attraction of having a higher rate differential must be balanced with the central bank's efforts to maintain lower interest rates for domestic borrowings, particularly for the government.

Equitable-PCI cuts loan to BSP to ₱9B

EQUITABLE-PCI Bank yesterday announced that it has recently prepaid another P3 billion to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, bringing down its borrowings from the BSP to only P9 billion.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes confirmed that payment has indeed been made. He said that there was a very substantial reduction from the original amount of P30 billion that the BSP provided to Equitable-PCI Bank in the first quarter of 2001. With the repayment, he expressed the hope that the remaining balance of the loan will be paid before the end of the year.

Equitable-PCI Bank's aggressive deposit recovery program has enabled it to make prepayments of P21 billion, or 70 percent of its BSP liquidity facility.

"We have been able to make prepayments because of the resurgence in deposit growth, which continues to increase to this day," Equitable-PCI Bank president and CEO Deogracias N. Vistan stated. "Largely due to the performance of the branches and the rest of the officers and staff, we are very pleased that Equitable-PCI Bank has successfully regained the confidence of its old customers and earned the patronage of new clients."

Its deposit recovery efforts have likewise enabled the bank to focus on further enhancing existing products as well as developing innovative offerings for its expanding client base. The bank recently launched FASTNet, its latest electronic banking offering that gives clients the power to bank every time and everywhere by simply logging on to www.fastnet.com.ph. Its housing and car loan facilities were also recently relaunched.

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Banks' bad loans swell to 18.03% in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BAD loans of the commercial banking sector continued to swell to a worrying 18.03 percent of its total loan portfolio in August, up from 17.72 percent a month ago, as the industry saw a continued deterioration in the loan quality of lenders in the face of rising credit default and a shrinking level of new loans.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was concerned that in the coming months, close to P10 billion in soured loans would be added to the NPL basket.

"There are new credits that may be added to the list like, for example, Ramcar's, which could bloat the NPLs even further," the central bank governor said.

Ramcar Inc., controlled by the Agustines family, is seeking to restructure close to P8 billion worth of loans owed to several local banks. The company that specializes in battery production has investments in the Metro Rail Transit-3 project and in the local franchise of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Mr. Donut.

While it had been able to pay at least the interest on the loans, thus making it performing, industry sources said its financial problems could prompt it to stop paying even the interest falling due.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal or interest has been unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it is unpaid after a month.

"It is hard to say if this level is (the peak) already. If the loan growth continues to slide, the expected reduction will not be there specially if new credits come in," the central bank chief said.

As of August, the level of soured loans of the country's 45 operating commercial banks grew by P2.5 billion to P280.87 billion as the total loan portfolio dropped by P13.3 billion to P1.557 billion.

Using a broader definition of nonperforming loans to include restructured loans and foreclosed assets, the bad loan ratio deteriorated to 28.6 percent in August from 28.3 percent the previous month and 24.2 percent a year ago.

Had interbank loans been taken out from the total loan portfolio, the ratio of commercial banks' NPLs would have moved up to 19.93 percent from 19.52 percent in July.

Except for government-owned banks whose bad loan ratio improved to 18.58 percent from the previous month's 19.15 percent, all other commercial banks posted higher NPL levels.

Even foreign bank branches registered a higher level of bad loans at 4.77 percent from 4.56 percent a month ago.

"We didn't expect the economic slowdown to be this severe. Who would have expected Sept. 11," Buenaventura noted.

Thus, more and more borrowers failed to settle their maturing debts while not much loan applications were coming up because of the anemic economic conditions, an analyst explained.

"What we need now for the NPLs is a way to get rid of them. The law that would push for the asset management companies should be prioritized. Also, the secondary market for mortgages should be developed. These are measures that would help take out bad loans from banks and improve their loan portfolio," Buenaventura explained.

Gross restructured loans went up by P13.2 billion, pushing the ratio to 6.93 percent of total loan portfolio in August from the previous month's 6.86 percent. The past-due portion of the restructured credits also soared to 45.6 percent from 43.1 percent.

Banks' coverage ratio in August slightly improved to 43.6 percent from 43.5 percent as the loan-loss reserves rose by P1.4 billion despite a P2.5-billion increase in soured loans.

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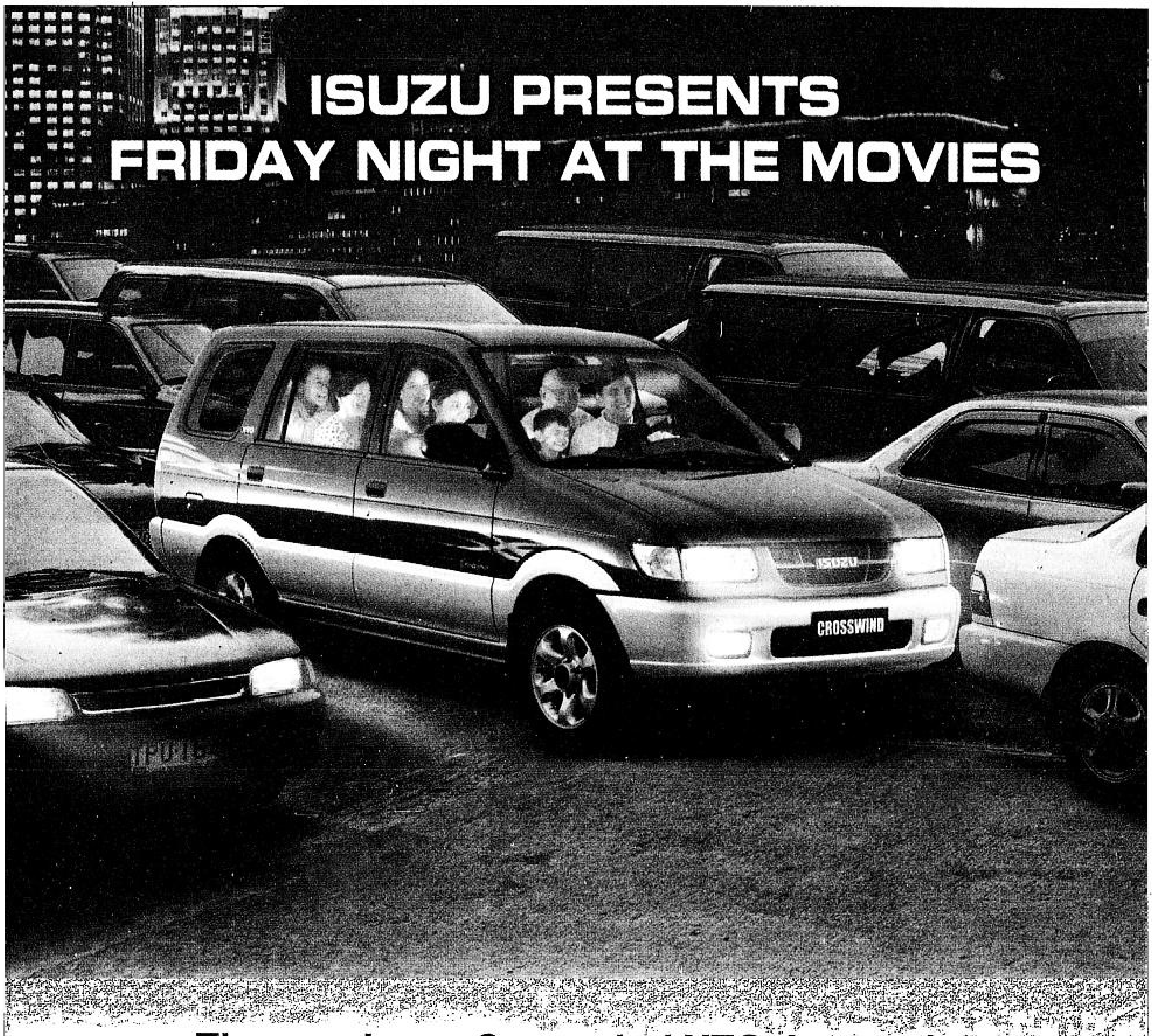

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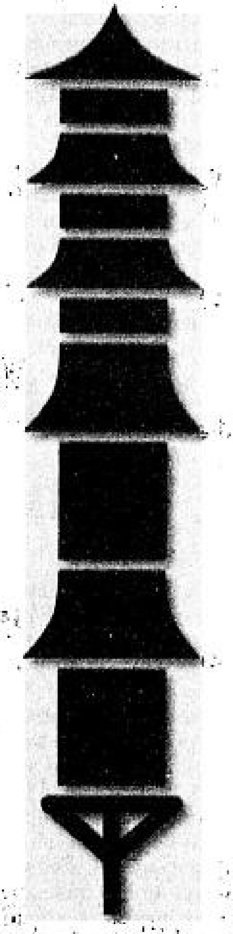
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Globe, Digitel end telephone dispute, agree to open links

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TELECOMMUNICATION firms Globe Telecom Inc. and Digital Telecommunications Inc. said on Tuesday that they had ended an interconnection dispute, enabling users to call each other again.

Globe Telecom, the country's second-largest telephone firm, and Digitel said in separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange that preparations were under way to settle Digitel's unpaid access charges to Globe.

"We are confirming that Digitel and Globe have settled their commercial dispute and have opened their interconnection links so that subscribers of both companies can call one another," Digitel said.

"A new agreement will be prepared for signing next week," the phone firm said.

Globe said its president, Gerardo Ablaza, met Digitel director Johnson Go on Oct. 12 at the National Telecommunications Commission to discuss the settlement and payment of interconnection charges.

"The agreements between the parties are being prepared, and specific information will be disclosed as soon as these agreements have been signed," Globe said.

Globe earlier said Digitel's unpaid access charges totaled P250.69 million.

Digitel said it would pay Globe over P167 million in unpaid access charges.

The amount represents the "undisputed amount" that Digitel owes Globe.

Digitel yesterday made an initial payment of P86 million to Globe. The company agreed to pay the balance in there equal installments of P27 million starting next month until January next year.

Some P20 million worth of "disputed receivables" would be settled by working "in good faith to exchange and verify call data records," Digitel said.

The access charges, incurred from September 1999 to June this year, were related to the interconnection agreement between the two companies.

Globe cut off its interconnection with Digitel in June because of mounting unpaid charges.

Globe is jointly owned by Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecommunications International and Deutsche Telekom AG.

Digitel is a unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc., the conglomerate controlled by the Gokongwei family, which also has interests in banking, petrochemical and food.

SEC unit wants BW stock scam pursued

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission's compliance and enforcement department has recommended that administrative proceedings against 24 individuals and stockbrokerages involved in the BW Resources Corp. stock fraud scandal be pursued.

The compliance and enforce department conducted last year a fact-finding investigation on the phenomenal movement of the share prices of BW Resources from October 1998 to October 1999.

SEC documents showed that BW Resources majority owner Dante Tan, his associate, Jimmy Juan, former BW Resources president and broker Eduardo Lim Jr., and a number of stockbrokerages violated the country's securities laws, specifically the Securities Regulation Code and the Revised Securities Act.

The compliance and enforce department earlier filed criminal complaints with the Department of Justice against Tan, Juan and about 50 individuals and stockbrokerages.

The justice department, however, after reviewing the SEC complaint, charged only Tan, Juan and Lim before the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

The SEC has a pending motion for reconsideration asking the court to include in the charge sheet other individuals and stockbrokerages.

In petitions filed with the SEC's office of the general counsel on Oct. 11, the compliance and enforce department noted that Tan, Juan, using various stockbrokerages, connived to manipulate the stock prices of BW Resources through wash sales, matched orders and other illegal ways.

The compliance and enforce department cited Securities 2000, Belson Securities, AT de Castro Securities, Sun Hung Kai Securities (Philippines) Inc., PNB Securities and Mark Securities as among those that participated in the price manipulation of BW Resources shares.

"It is not possible that said broker firms were not aware of the dealings that they were effecting since what was involved was a series of transactions. There is, therefore, sufficient basis for their inclusion as participants, directly or indirectly, in the violations committed. Further, this can be supported by the fact that these brokers, by reason of the nature of their business and operations alone, can easily detect the presence of market manipulation through the application of the rule of "know your client," the compliance and enforce department said.

Landbank to utilize asset management firm

LAND BANK of the Philippines has decided to dispose of around P40 billion worth of bad loans and non-performing assets through an asset management company.

Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz yesterday told the INQUIRER that Landbank's board agreed to sell P15 billion to P20 billion in bad assets through an outright sale or a joint venture. In both cases, an asset management company will act as a vehicle for the disposition of these assets.

Landbank is currently studying what parameters it will set for the sale, such as what will be the hurdle rate or minimum discount it will accept for its assets, Cruz said.

The state-owned bank has received offers from investment banks and other groups to buy its bad loans and acquired assets for 20 to 30 centavos for every peso worth of assets held.

The bank has P30 billion in bad loans and P10 billion worth of acquired assets

Cruz said Landbank preferred a joint venture with a prospective investor because this would allow it to recover any value from subsequent sale of its assets.

Several investment banks or foreign groups have engaged in talks to acquire bad loans of local banks amounting to over P200 billion.

Lone Star Asia-Pacific Investments Ltd., a large private equity fund dedicated to investing in real estate and non-performing loans in Asia, is considering acquiring Landbank's assets, as well as participating in the bidding for the P42-billion home mortgage portfolio of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DISCLOSURES

INTERPORT Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15, 10 a.m., at the Metropolitan Club in Makati. Only stockholders as of Oct. 11 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. at the 34th floor of Citibank Tower in Makati.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. clarified that although it received an offer for a partnership in information technology business, no agreement had been reached after preliminary discussions. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

HEINZ UFC chair and CEO JD Campos Jr. takes President Macapagal on tour of facilities during recent inaugurationof its plant in Cabuyao, Laguna. Behind them are president and COO LF Alejandro and John Crawshaw, vice president, Heinz Asia region.

iVantage shares up on talks of new investors

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SHARES of information-technology firm iVantage Corp. yesterday sizzled at the local stock market as a key 20-percent block was transferred to the group of businessman William Chua.

iVantage, whose share price rose by 6 centavos to close at 46 centavos, was the day's most actively traded stock as 208 million shares were crossed at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The block sale, which accounted for almost a fourth of all transactions at the stock market yesterday, raised eyebrows as some investors speculated that a new group might be buying into the company.

But iVantage president Dave de Leon, in an interview, explained that the block sale was simply a consummation of an earlier share-swap deal that had allowed the iVantage group to buy into a consortium of technology companies founded by Chua's WS group.

"William Chua is not selling out. In fact, he was the recipient of the block sale. A 20-percent stake was transferred to him," De Leon said.

De Leon explained that the block sale represented shares transferred by investment house Pacific Asia Capital Corp. to Chua's group.

Pacific Asia, in turn, was earlier used by the group to facilitate the transfer of shares as the deal also involved some cash component.

He said the price at which the block sale was done was based on a level already agreed upon by the parties earlier.

iVantage transformed itself into a technology holding company last year when it bought into a consortium of six companies controlled by Chua's group.

The consortium consists of software developer Jupiter Systems Inc., Philippine Internet search engine Yehey.com, computer distributor Wordtext Systems Inc., systems integrator Nexus Technologies Inc., Internet consulting firm WS Fiesta Online and medical transcription software developer IPD Systems Inc.

Prior to its transformation into an IT firm, the company was an unprofitable oil exploration firm. At present, iVantage also has a stake in Lucky Star Network and e-Business services.

Chua's group now owns 20 percent of iVantage while another 20 percent is being held by the public. The remaining 60 percent is owned by the original Vantage principals Benito Tiu, Hans Sy and Willy Ocier.

Court clears Shemberg Biotech's rehab plan

BY IRENE R. SINO-CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel for Shemberg Biotech Corp. as a lower court has allowed a receiver to review the ailing firm's proposed rehabilitation plan.

In his ruling, Regional Trial Court Judge Isaias Dicdican has determined that there is merit in Shemberg Biotech's petition for rehabilitation.

Dicdican, however, had yet to approve Shemberg Biotech's proposed rehabilitation plan pending recommendations on it by a court-appointed receiver.

In an order dated Oct. 12, Dicdican said Shemberg Biotech's business "is still viable as it has a market for its products."

"If (the) petitioner is given a sufficient breathing spell, it may be able to meet and settle its debts and obligations," Dicdican ruled.

Shemberg Biotech submitted its petition for a rehabilitation before the court on May 24.

In its petition, Shemberg Biotech cited as reasons for its difficulties the Asian economic crisis, and a mixture of operational and financial factors.

As of end 2000, the company's total debt exposure was estimated at almost P1 billion, although its original debt was placed at P704.738 million.

Of the P704.738 million, Biotech borrowed P484.591 million from three multilateral institutions.

Since 1992, the company has paid over $6.22 million in interest to its multilateral creditors, the Asian Development Bank, the CDC Group and Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesselschaft mbh.

Biotech has also paid a total of more than $3.87 million charged against the principal of the loan granted by its multilateral creditors.

The company, however, assured the court that it would be able to recover from the economic downturn if allowed to undergo rehabilitation.

The proposed rehabilitation plan calls for the conversion of part of the loans due to multilaterals (45 percent) and commercial banks (30 percent).

The plan also seeks the restructuring of the company's residual debt for a period of 10 years and the waiving of penalties.

Under its rehabilitation plan, Biotech intends to pay interest to all its lenders from 2001 to 2009.

The company will also pay accrued interests starting 2009 while paying the principal debt due on the third and fourth year of the rehabilitation starting on the fifth year.

When the court found that Biotech has met the conditions for a petition for rehabilitation to be given due course, the court asked the creditors to comment on the petition.

Some of the creditor banks sought the submission of another rehabilitation plan.

But multilateral lending institutions led by the ADB and the Bank of Philippine Islands asked the court to rule in favor of the dissolution of the company.

According to Dicdican, the arguments of the creditor banks through their representative, Jayant Dang, "relate more to the purported non-feasibility of the petitioner's proposed rehabilitation plan and not so much to the merit of the petition itself."

"This court will revisit and reflect more deeply on these arguments as soon as the rehabilitation receiver shall have submitted his recommendations about the proposed rehabilitation plan," he said.

"In view of the foregoing premises, the court hereby gives due course to the petition filed in this case," he added.

The court also ordered that the petition and its annexes be referred immediately to the rehabilitation receiver.

The rehabilitation receiver will be given 120 days to evaluate the rehabilitation plan and submit his recommendations to the court.

Biotech's creditors also opposed the appointment of Ruben Almendras as the rehabilitation receiver for Shemberg Biotech due to conflict of interests.

They said Almendras had been a financial advisor to the petitioner.

In the same ruling, Dicdican recalled the appointment of Almendras and instead, appointed Pio Go as the rehabilitation receiver.

The judge gave Go 10 days to manifest his acceptance of the appointment.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 17, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	17,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	410,800
China Banking Corp.	500	530	500	530	25,030
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	17.25	17.5	210,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	55,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	181	178	179	29,160
Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	30,400
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	241	241	241	241	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1290	1290	1290	1,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1080	1070	1080	9,280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	590	590	590	680
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	20,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	382.5	380	380	97,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.46	208,760,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	12,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	15,900
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33.5	32.5	33	903,000
Petron Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.18	3,749,000
Transportation Services					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	2,719,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	1,020,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	180,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,240,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	5,260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	440,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.95	491,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	46,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	1,000
RFM Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.88	898,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	222,200
San Miguel Corp. B	44	44	43.5	44	219,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	290,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,383,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	1,075,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	170,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.5	95,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.14	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.78	6,620,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	800,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	23.5	24	23.5	24	207,100
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	950,000
Ionics Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	8,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	514,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	110,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	550,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	24,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.105	2,360,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	720,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	750,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	196,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	299,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	90,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	230,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	26.5	25	26.5	70,100
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	520	520	520	520	800
PLDT 10% Pref Series A	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.25	7,859,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	3,408,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.6	3,507,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min &.Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	75,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Omico Corporation	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	30,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	819,910	54,112,330.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	278,321,410	229,262,505.00
PRO	15,934,000	57,538,920.00
Mining	108,225,000	2,049,840.00
OIL	3,200,000	73,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	406,500,320	343,036,595.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	416.84	DOWN 0.10
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,471.96	UP 4.06
PRO	436.34	UP 10.98
Mining	1,036.17	UP 24.47
OIL	1.39	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	662.11	UP 4.58
Composite	1,043.01	UP 7.10

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 1,534

CURRENCIES

Oct. 17, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.100473	1.000000	51.7350
Japan	Yen	0.009079	0.008250	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594256	1.448700	74.9485
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141094	0.128212	6.6330
Switzerland	Franc	0.673278	0.611808	31.6519
Canada	Dollar	0.703763	0.639509	33.0850
Singapore	Dollar	0.605988	0.550661	28.4884
Australia	Dollar	0.564866	0.513294	26.5553
Bahrain	Dinar	2.919182	2.652661	137.2354
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293436	0.266645	13.7949
Brunei	Dollar	0.606321	0.550964	28.5041
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024680	0.022427	1.1603
UAE	Dirham	0.299693	0.272331	14.0890
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000772	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.908700	47.0116
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.464611	24.0367
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138530	7.1668
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.412350	21.3329
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066038	3.4165
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022526	1.1654
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000469	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152832	7.9068
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004533	0.2345
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005461	0.2825
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022526	1.1654
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.153811	59.6924

Gov't, 'Big 3' agree on moving oil depots

THE GOVERNMENT and the country's "Big Three" oil firms have concluded a deal to study the possibility of transferring Pandacan's oil depots, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said yesterday

Perez told reporters that the energy department recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. to jointly study alternatives that would lessen risks posed to nearby communities by the nine-decade-old depots in Pandacan, Manila.

Perez said the energy department and the three oil firms agreed to prepare a "master plan" that would guide the "feasible" relocation of their oil terminals.

Perez said the study was expected to be completed in a year. The implementation, however, would be implemented in phases within five years. The first phase was expected to commence by 2003.

A third-party expert will be tapped to assess the potential risks posed by the nearness of large communities to the Pandacan depots, he added.

The relocation of the Pandacan liquefied petroleum gas facilities of the three oil companies will be part of the first phase.

Perez said during the one-year period, the three oil companies would refrain from any new major capital expenditures with respect to the Pandacan oil terminals except for expenditures to be incurred for security, health, safety and normal operations.

He lauded the move by the three companies to continue their budgetary allocation for the provision of health, safety, security and environmental requirements of the oil terminals and the surrounding communities. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Cebu Pacific to press ahead with plan to go international

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

CEBU Pacific Air said yesterday that it would pursue its plans to go international before year's end despite the gloomy outlook in the industry, following terrorist attacks in the United States.

In an interview, Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the airline would push through with flights to at least two key international routes this year, starting with Hong Kong next month.

After Hong Kong, Cebu Pacific would fly to Singapore, he said.

Other regional destinations were still on the pipeline but would have to wait until next year, he said.

Gokongwei conceded that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and an ongoing war by Western countries to oust the Taliban government in Afghanistan were dealing a blow to the airline industry, but Cebu Pacific was already set on tapping international routes this year.

"It has been affected, that's natural, but people are beginning to start flying again," Gokongwei said.

Cebu Pacific has acquired from US Airways a McDonnell Douglas DC9-32, the first so-called Stage III aircraft in its fleet.

A "Stage III" status indicates compliance to aircraft noise restrictions set by the Federal Aviation Authority of the United States. In the Philippines, the Air Transportation Office wants all Stage II aircraft to be phased out or at least be Stage III-compliant by 2006.

With the acquisition of the DC9-32, the 12th such aircraft in its fleet, Cebu Pacific is optimistic that it will be able to comply with the ATO's requirement that at least 25 percent of its fleet be made up of Stage III planes by 2003.

"Cebu Pacific is in the process of preparing for the ATO's mandate, and we are confident that we will be 100-percent compliant with the noise standards set by the agency within, or even before, the 2006 deadline," said Peggy Vera, Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs. "In fact, the recent arrival of this Stage III DC-9 puts us way ahead of schedule."

The DC-9 (RPC 1541) was flown in last month from California by Cebu Pacific vice president for flight operations John Andrews.

Cebu Pacific's first Boeing 757, also a Stage III aircraft, is scheduled to arrive by the end of the month. This is in preparation for the airline's regional operations, which will begin in mid-November.

FPI lobbies for tariff reforms

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries is lobbying Congress to push for tariff reforms, raise budgetary allocation for the Bureau of Customs and amend the Clean Air Act.

Top FPI officials met with House Speaker Jose de Venecia to get Congress' support in initiating key measures that needed legislative approval.

The group has petitioned Congress for the imposition of zero duties on all raw materials not locally produced while batting for an increase or maintenance of duties on several finished products to protect domestic industries.

The government previously made known its support of these measures, particularly the waiver of duties on raw materials and capital equipment not produced locally and maintaining duties on certain products, particularly petrochemicals.

The FPI said these measures were meant to boost the competitiveness of local industries in preparation for the further liberalization of trade with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2003.

FPI officials are also urging lawmakers to increase the share of the customs bureau from the General Appropriations Act to enable the agency to acquire new X-ray devices to beef up the monitoring of the country's ports.

The FPI reckoned that with better surveillance equipment, the BOC would be able to closely monitor goods smuggled into the country.

The groups are likewise asking Congress to amend the Clean Air Act by promoting alternative ecological waste management methods in lieu of the ban on incinerators.

Most businessmen have pushed for a deferment of the Clean Air Act in order to give industries more time to raise money and acquire new technology.

They have suggested that the law be implemented through a progressive compliance process to enable local industries to improve their environmental compliance in stages instead of raising the bar immediately to the standards of developed countries where industries are in a better position to have higher emission standards.

US attacks . . .

(From page B1)

The bank said China's continued pace of growth will be the main determinant. The bank projects 7.1-percent growth for China this year and 6.8-percent next year.

Poverty levels are expected to remain fairly static in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand during the slowdown, "and perhaps increase slightly as workers in export sectors are laid off."

The World Bank said lower US interest rates as well as tax cuts and increased government spending may translate into more rapid recovery.

Kharas urged East Asian governments to "stick with their reform programs" on banking systems, asset sales, restructuring of corporate balance sheets, and improvements and the legal and financial systems—initiatives ushered in the aftermath of the Asian crisis.

"The best safeguard against future downturns is to have such reforms well underway; the best way to take advantage of an upturn is to have systems in place which encourage and properly utilize investment capital."

AFP

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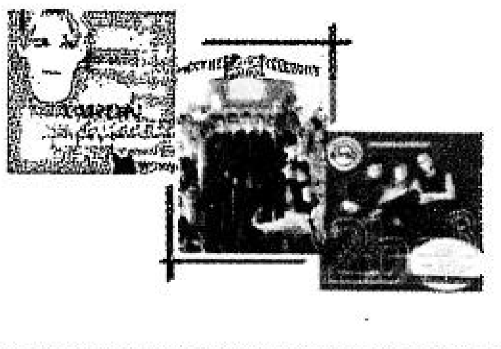

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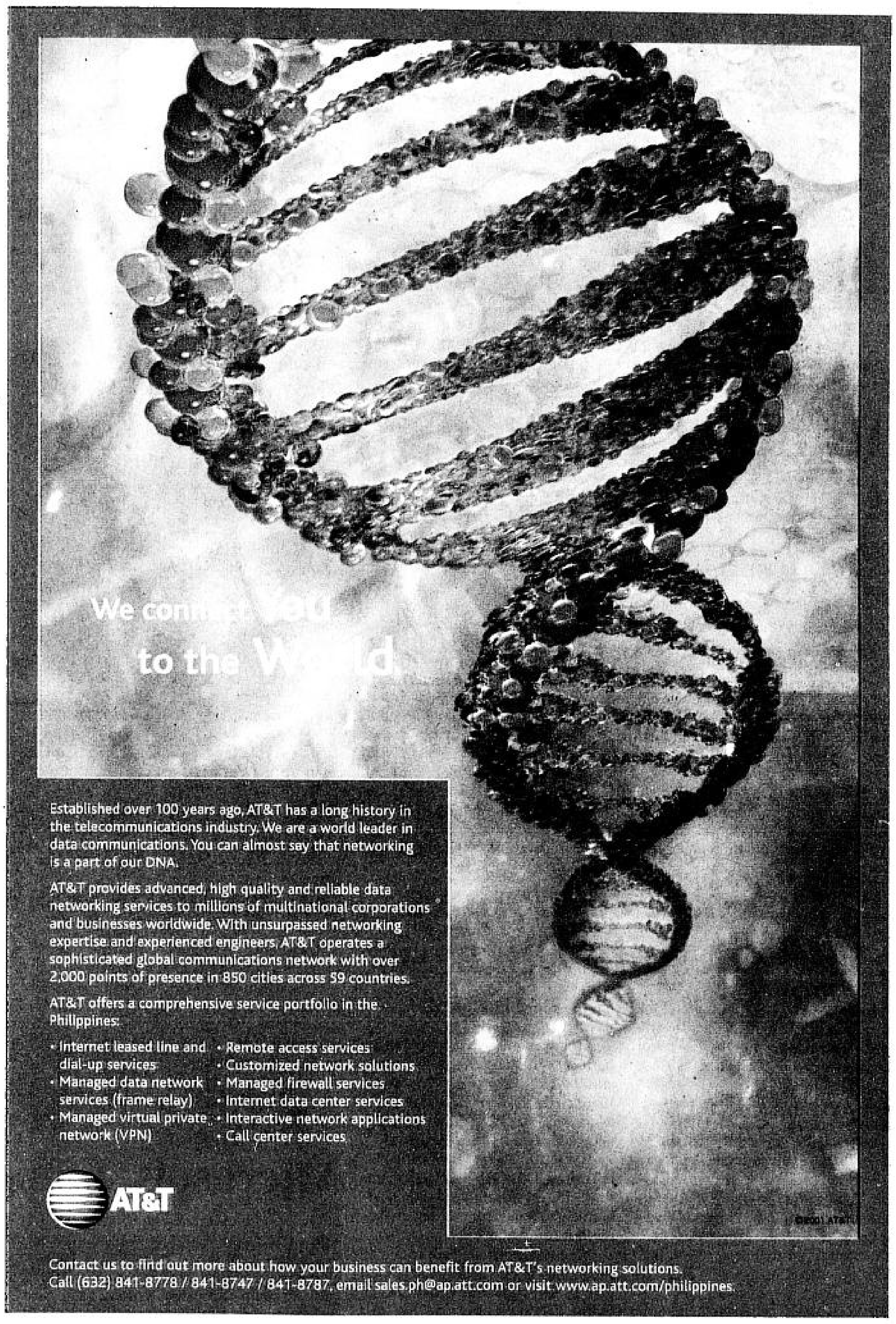

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Fresh from J. Walter Thompson

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

"**Creativity** is a behavior and innovation is a process."

So says the book *What if! Starting a Creative Revolution at Work*. It also notes that while ninety percent of people agree that creativity and innovation are vital to company growth, the same ninety percent wouldn't know how to do it.

At J. Walter Thompson Manila, one of the country's biggest communication agencies, the office culture is built on the belief that "creative is not a department." That's why all its employees, not just the writers and artists, are evaluated on their contributions to creativity in the workplace.

Robert Labayen, JWT Manila's Executive Vice-President and Executive Creative Director, says, "Their creativity is honed with training sessions on lateral thinking, and innovation is institutionalized through a system that encourages work teams to reject the 'expected'."

By inspiring employees to initiate revolutionary—not just incremental—change, this well-established company sustains its hunger for achievements. As proof, JWT Manila boasts of nine new business wins, the highest marks from clients, and some of the top trophies from this year's Ad of the Year Awards.

To top it off, JWT Manila has JWT Fresh, a new brand and a benchmark for everything that the agency does. With fresh thinking, the agency and its clients can make a lot of big leaps.

"Because," as Robert [illegible] it "a chasm cannot be crossed [illegible] small steps."

A STOCK runner smiles during the morning session of trading Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Shanghai Stock Exchange. China's shares extended their losses Tuesday on disappointment over the government's failure to announce any market stimulus measures. AP

Apec leaders must act to help reverse economic slowdown

SHANGHAI—Asia-Pacific leaders must act to help reverse the global economic slowdown while pressing for the launch of a new round of World Trade Organization talks, according to a draft declaration.

The draft obtained by AFP of the declaration by leaders of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum economies, due to be released at the end of a weekend summit here, also reaffirms the leaders' confidence in the region's prospects.

"The slowdown in some major economies casts a shadow over the prospects of regional economic growth. As the premiere forum for regional economic cooperation, Apec must also act to help reverse the downturn," the draft says.

Since last year's Apec summit in Brunei, the global slowdown has hurt the region, with some of the 21 member economies particularly affected by unfavorable external market conditions.

However, the draft said the leaders affirmed "unwavering confidence in the medium and long-term growth prospects" for the Asia-Pacific region.

The leaders would also reiterate their strong commitment to the launch of the new round of global trade talks at the WTO ministerial meeting scheduled next month for Singapore.

They agreed on the need for a balanced and broad agenda, which would include increasing trade liberalization and strengthening WTO rules. It would "reflect the interests and concerns of all members, especially those of the developing ones."

It would also call for the rapid completion of the accession to the WTO of China and Taiwan at Doha, and the advancement of the WTO accession process for Apec members Russia and Vietnam.

Both China and Taiwan have finalized deals to enter the WTO, with only formal ratification by the trade organization remaining to be completed.

The draft said Apec needs to demonstrate its ability to respond and adapt to changes in the world.

While global integration holds great promise for delivering higher living standards, the opportunities were not shared widely enough among and within economies. *AFP*

Heads of states to agree on overhaul of free-trade drive to spur growth

SHANGHAI—Asia-Pacific leaders will agree to launch a review of their stuttering free trade drive in 2005 and call for a worldwide initiative to cut red tape tying up global growth, a draft accord says.

The weekend summit of leaders from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum is expected to result in a "Shanghai Accord" as part of a raft of statements, including one condemning terrorism in the wake of the attacks on the United States.

US President George W. Bush and other leaders will reaffirm Apec's target of free trade among developed members by 2010 and among developing ones 10 years later, according to the draft Shanghai Accord obtained by AFP Wednesday.

The deadlines, called the "Bogor Goals," were agreed at a 1994 Apec summit in the Indonesian hill resort of Bogor. The draft Shanghai Accord notes new economic challenges have arisen in the seven years since, such as globalization and the rise of the Internet.

"Apec's vision needs to reflect these changes," it says.

"While trade liberalization is at the core of Apec's agenda, leaders also agree that the Bogor Goals need to be placed within the context of an updated and expanded vision that addresses trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation, in an integrated manner to maximize the benefits for all economies in the region."

Many of the 21 Apec member economies have plunged into or are on the verge of recession, hit hard by the US-led global slump.

Against such a gloomy backdrop, analysts have warned that stricken Apec economies could derail the Bogor Goals by reneging on their commitments to tear down tariff barriers.

But the trade ambition is still on track, insisted Apec executive director Zhang Yan.

"In spite of the difficult macroeconomic environment in the region and the world at large, still Apec economies believe we should persist in our efforts to achieve the Bogor Goals," he told AFP.

The Apec gathering comes a month before a scheduled ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will attempt to revive the global free-trade drive abandoned at the protest-plagued Seattle WTO meeting in 1999. *AFP*

Bank of England chief predicts three-year economic downturn

LONDON—Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, has warned the global economic slowdown could last for three more years and hinted he would back further cuts in Britain's interest rates, the Financial Times reported Wednesday.

The Bank of England chief warned of "a bumpy ride" ahead, but believed the British economy could avoid a recession, with domestic demand helped by government spending and robust consumer confidence.

He promised the bank's monetary policy committee would not hesitate to cut interest rates if there were insufficient demand to keep inflation on target.

George's outlook for the global economy was far more cautious than that of most private sector forecasters, the FT said.

"There is little reason that I can see to suppose that global growth will not recover to at least its earlier trend rate over the next two to three years once the immediate shock has been absorbed," the FT quoted him as saying. "It may be a bumpy ride for a time."

Official figures released on Tuesday showed a fall in underlying inflation in September of 0.3 percentage points to 2.3 percent—back below the British government's 2.5-percent target.

George acknowledged that the continuing imbalance between internationally exposed sectors such as manufacturing and better-performing domestically oriented sectors was "not without risks."

But he said: "Doing what we can to encourage domestic demand growth to compensate for the global economic weakness is certainly preferable to an unnecessary slowdown in the economy as a whole."

He hinted, however, at quick rises in interest rates once conditions improved, the FT reported.

His comments came in a speech to business people in Wales on Tuesday night. *AFP*

BRITAIN'S Prince Andrew, right, smiles as he talks with New York Stock Exchange Chair Richard Grasso before he rings the opening bell, Monday Oct. 15. AP

East Asian economies stable despite US crisis

SEOUL—The credit rating outlook for most East Asian economies remains steady despite the US terror crisis, Moody's Investors Service said Wednesday.

"The outlooks for the foreign-currency ratings of East Asia's sovereigns have remained unchanged, despite the events of Sept. 11," said the New York-based ratings agency in a statement, referring to the terror attacks on New York and Washington.

Moody's attributed the stable outlooks to the region's drive to improve economic conditions ever since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

It said East Asian economies have been pruning external debt, bolstering foreign exchange reserves and maintaining policies that have supported healthy balance-of-payments positions.

Moody's analysts saw a positive outlook for Hong Kong (A3) and stable credit outlooks for South Korea (Baa2), Singapore (Aa1), Malaysia (Baa2), Thailand (Baa3) and Indonesia (B3), it explained.

But it said Japan's domestic yen issues and the Ba1 rating of the Philippines' foreign currency-denominated bonds remain negative in outlook.

Moody's expressed concern that Japan may cut investment in the region to ease economic pain inflicted by the US downturn.

The agency warned the US recession "will most likely drag down exports and thus slow GDP (gross domestic product) growth across the region." *AFP*

Singapore posts worst-ever trade performance

SINGAPORE—Singapore has recorded its worst-ever trade performance with its key non-oil domestic exports (NODX) falling 30.7 percent in September from a year ago, the Trade Development Board said Wednesday.

The September slump in NODX—a key indicator of the health of the Singapore economy—was the island's seventh straight monthly decline and reflected its deepest slump since gaining independence in 1965.

The result eclipsed the previous fall of 29.9 percent a month earlier, the board said.

Continued weakness in the world's major economies along with the slump in the global demand for electronics was to blame for the performance, it said.

"The major economies, the US, EU and Japan continued to slow after the Sept. 11 attacks while the slump in global electronics demand persisted," it said in a statement.

Total exports to its biggest market, the United States, fell 44.5 percent in September on the year. Exports to the European Union slumped 27.4 percent and Japan fell 30.1 percent.

Electronic exports, a crucial component of the important manufacturing sector, fell 38.9 percent on the year and was steeper than the 37.5-percent drop posted in August.

Within electronics exports, integrated circuits posted the biggest fall of 61.1 percent followed by personal computers at 52.2 percent.

Manufacturing accounts for 25 percent of the island's gross domestic product (GDP) and half of its output are electronics-related. *AFP*

Microsoft, Samsung tie up on home technologies

SEOUL—Microsoft Corp. and South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. on Wednesday agreed to forge a strategic alliance on digital home technologies, the companies announced.

"The two companies intend to work together to develop and market a new breed of products based on Samsung hardware and Microsoft Windows software," they said in a statement.

The business tie-up marked the first strategic alliance for United States giant Microsoft's eHome Division, it said.

Microsoft chair Bill Gates and Samsung Electronics chief executive officer Chin Daeje signed a memorandum of understanding on the partnership during a joint news conference in Seoul.

Samsung, the world's largest memory chip maker, said the new business alliance will help it lead "the digital electronics era," the statement said.

The eHome Division is aimed at developing technologies for customers to enjoy "whole—home entertainment, communications and control experiences where, when and however they want them," it explained.

"Microsoft's alliance with Samsung Electronics will deliver a new generation of digital home technologies that create exciting experiences without adding more complexity to people's lives," Gates said.

"We are entering a digital decade where smart, connected devices and advanced home entertainment solutions will enable people to utilize technology in new ways and maximize its full potential." *AFP*

Litany on global economic gloom persists

WASHINGTON—The litany of economic bad news from the United States, Europe and Japan ground on unabated on Tuesday as the effects of last month's attacks on the United States rippled through the global economy.

In Europe, there was news of thousands of new job cuts. In Japan, a central banker warned of a deflationary spiral. In the United States was mounting evidence of an economic slump.

More than a month after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, not a day goes by without further economic bad news adding to evidence pointing to a global recession.

The US Federal Reserve said industrial output slumped sharply in September, dropping one percent and marking its longest slide since the end of World War II. The report was the latest to detail a long-running recession in US manufacturing, where 93,000 jobs were lost in September.

And anecdotal reports on US retail sales showed consumer spending has remained sluggish in recent weeks. Many retailers reported fewer customers since Oct. 7, when the United States began military action in Afghanistan.

As if the US economy did not have enough worries after the attacks, the specter of potentially lethal anthrax was also beginning to take its toll.

Anthrax fears

A dozen Americans have been exposed to anthrax in recent days, adding to fears that consumer confidence will decline even further—something that was reflected in rising US debt future prices on Tuesday.

"There seems to be a general feeling that the anthrax scares are going to be negative for consumer confidence," said Nick Kalivas of futures trading firm Refco Inc.

In Tokyo, Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said: "We are at a stage where we must, with utmost care, watch that Japan's economy does not fall into a vicious cycle of falling prices and economic recession."

"The possibility that weak demand will further intensify downward pressures on prices warrants careful monitoring," he added.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said his country's growth this year would not be as strong as previously expected and a German banking association cut its growth forecast to just 0.8 percent.

Schroeder told reporters: "The economy will grow this year, albeit not as strongly as we had expected."

The German government has stuck doggedly to a forecast of growth of around 2 percent this year, but is expected to reduce this figure after the country's six leading economic institutes publish semi-annual forecasts next Tuesday.

With the Bush administration having already announced plans for a multibillion-dollar economy boosting package, pressure is on Europe to follow suit.

Finance Minister Laurent Fabius announced on Tuesday that a package of French stimulus measures worth 1.2 billion euros for 2002 in an effort to prevent a recession before national elections early next year.

The package comes amid growing calls by euro zone finance ministers asking the European Central Bank to support the economies of the 12-member zone with more interest rate cuts. Fabius reiterated that the ECB had further room to lower rates after its decision to leave interest rates unchanged at its meeting last Thursday.

Job cuts

The need for some stimulus in European economies was emphasized when Dutch chip equipment maker ASML Holding announced 1,400 new job cuts because of continued weakness in the semiconductor sector.

General Motors' German unit Opel said it expects to shed about 2,500 jobs by 2003. And British Telecom said it would break up its struggling Concert joint venture with AT&T at a cost of 2,300 jobs.

Earlier this week, Germany's Siemens and Commerzbank both announced plans to trim thousands of jobs while the giant of US heavy industry, Bethlehem Steel, said it had filed for bankruptcy protection.

In recent months, over 650,000 jobs have been cut worldwide as the domino effect of the economic slowdown gathers pace.

But hopes that Europe could match the type of fiscal stimulus package being prepared in the United States were dampened somewhat. Euro zone finance ministers insisted after a meeting in Luxembourg that there should be no relaxation of budgetary rigor.

Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders, chair of the Eurogroup ministers, told a news briefing that recent steep rate cuts and a massive fiscal boost in the United States demonstrated the virtue of solid finances.

"This shows the importance of sticking to the (Stability and Growth) budget pact and achieving a surplus in the medium term," he said. "We have seen in the United States that they had more scope to respond."

The US central bank has far outpaced the ECB in cutting interest rates as growth rates have shrunk this year and the Bush administration plans a $75-billion package of tax cuts and spending to bolster economic growth prospects.

The slowing of the world economy is at least curbing concerns about inflation. *Reuters*

United CEO warns airline could 'perish'

CHICAGO—United Airlines CEO James Goodwin warned that the No. 2 US carrier could go belly up next year if it did not stem losses which have deepened since last month's terrorist attacks, an aviation magazine reported Tuesday.

United "will perish sometime next year" if it cannot stem its losses, Goodwin said last week as he unveiled plans to revamp the airliner's flight schedule in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, Air Transport World reported on its website Tuesday.

"We were not in a comfortable situation, with costs exceeding our revenue on a daily basis" prior to Sept. 11, Goodwin said, but costs now exceeded revenues "at four times the pre-Sept. 11 rate."

The slump in air travel, coming on top of a massive downturn in business travel, has forced United to cut its flight schedule by 26 percent and completely revamp its schedule effective Oct. 31.

ATW reported that United would be contacting 5.2 million customers with reservations in November and December about flight changes as it seeks to squeeze its flying day into 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Goodwin's warning came in a letter to United flight attendants which has yet to be sent out, but the contents of which were leaked, local media said.

A United spokesperson declined to comment on the report. *Reuters*

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GRAND VITARA

Power mode selector switch
Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter
Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventilation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct Ignition system
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenace costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace
A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive
A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps
Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

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Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Full frame with crumple zones
The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

Two-speed tranfer case
Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

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The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self,adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

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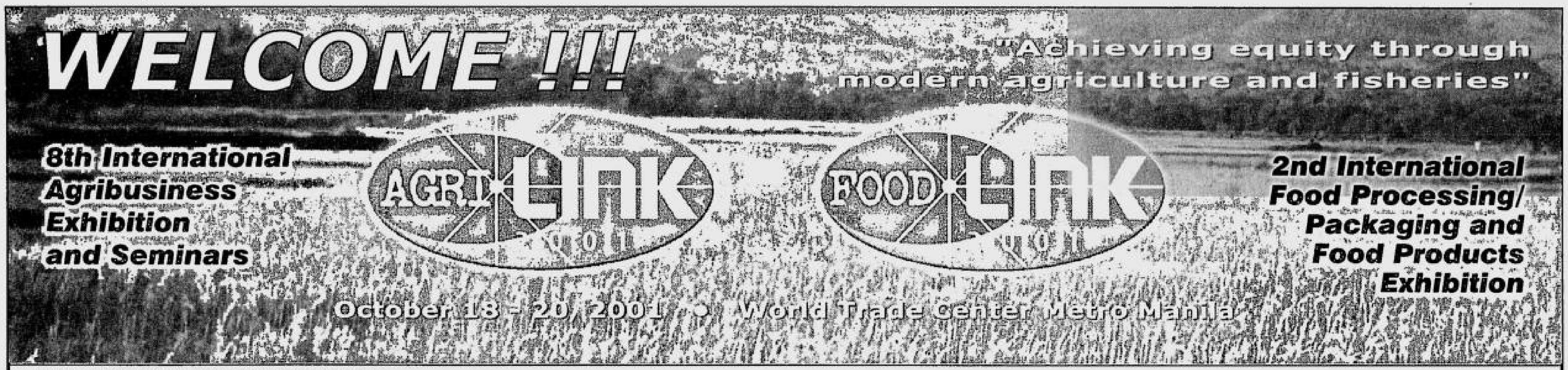
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS :

DATE/TIME	PICC MEETING ROOM 5	PICC MEETING ROOM 2/3
October 18, 2001 1:00 - 3:00 pm 3:15 - 5:15	* GIS Application in Agriculture Focusing on Sugarcane *by Philippine Sugar Research Institute Foundation, Inc.* * Artificial Insemination in Practice *by: Jeida Farm Supply Corp.*	* Critical Roles of Packaging in the Global Market *by: INFOMAPP* (seminar fee:P100/person) * Application of Biotech to the AgroIndustrial Sector *by: US Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service*
October 19, 2001 8:00 am - 10:00 am 10:15 am - 12:15 nn 1:00 - 3:00 pm 3:15 - 5:15 pm	* How To Make AI Profitable *by: Schippers Philippines* * Managing High Yield Broilers *by: Hybro B.V.* * Recent Advances and Development in Swine Nutrition *by: San Miguel Food, Inc.*	* Status of Fish Health Management in the Phils: White Spot Syndrome Virus on Shrimps and Other Economically Impt. Fish Diseases *by: Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources* * Dry Pea for Feed and Food Application *by: US Dry Pea and Lentil Council* * Prefabricated Walls from Coir (Coconut Husk) for Housing Construction *by: Philippine Coconut Authority*
October 20, 2001 8:00 am - 10:00 am 10:15 am - 12:15 pm 1:00 - 3:00 pm 3:00 - 5:00 pm	* Value-Adding to Meet Market and Nutritional Requirements of Fruits and Vegetables *by: National Agricultural and Fishery Council* * Food and Feed Safety of Biotech Products * Flower Shop Management *by: Flower Club Phils.* (seminar fee: P100/person) * Value Added Products from Tilapia *by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center* (seminar fee: P100/person)	* Developments in Philippine Aquaculture/Recent Development in Shrimp Farming Systems *by: SEAFDEC-AQD* * Greater Market Access Through New Technologies: The Israel Experience *by: The Embassy of Israel-Manila* * Diversified Species for Fresh Water Aquaculture *by: Mercado Farms* * Free Range Chicken Growing *by: Organic Producers Trade Association*

AUGUST 18, 2001 WTCMM Conference Rm1 : UK Agricultural Briefing

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Corp. • Interheat Inc. • International Farms Corp. • International Swine Genetics Inc. • Inve-Northwest Basic Commodities Corp. • I.D Basic. • Jeida Farm Supply Corp. • Jenn Yang Livestock Resources (Phils.) Inc. • JH Biotech • Jiangsu Zhengchang Group Co., Ltd. • L.A Agro Industrial Technik Ent. • Land' O' Lakes • Farmland Feed LLC • Larutan ResourcesDev't. Corp. • Lexus Multifarm Corp. • Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp. • Marid Agribusiness Digest • Maysan Casting Corp. • Medilea Inc. • Millhaven Mercantile Corp. • Mik Phils., Inc. • Mingley Trades & Imports Co. Ltd. • Monsanto Phils. Inc. • NF Agribusiness Corp. • Norfeed Aps. • Northwest Basic Commodities Corp. • Nueva Carne • Nueva Swine Valley, Inc. • Nuevo Milenio, Inc. • On-Line Brand • P & J Agricultural Trading • Pfizer Animal Health • Petersime N.V. • Philmalay Poultry Breeders, Inc. • Poultryx International (Phils.) 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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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SHDA leads housing summit workshops

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) will lead the holding of workshops on current issues related to housing production in preparation for the holding of a national multi-sectoral housing summit to be spearheaded by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Noel S. Gonzales, new SHDA national president, said that SHDA, as the lead agency and HUDCC partner in the technical working group on housing production of the housing summit, will undertake pre-summit consultations starting this month to validate housing-production issues and gather consensus on how to address them, for subsequent presentation during the housing summit proper to be held in October this year.

In a series of meetings with the representatives of member agencies of the technical working group, SHDA has already lined up topics for the workshops, which include building technologies and accreditation; supply of raw materials for housing production; socialized housing compliance; and local government housing programs, among others, according to Gonzales.

Among the member agencies working with SHDA are the Private Consultative Council for Shelter; Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines; National Housing Authority; Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; Department of Interior and Local Government; Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Munipalities; Department of Trade and Industry; and housing-related non-government organizations.

The housing summit aims to review housing issues by taking into consideration past policies and strategies; taking stock of the lessons learned from past administrations; as well as fine-tune current priorities and strategies of the housing sector, Gonzales pointed out.

Other technical working groups of the housing summit include those on housing finance; urban development and housing regulation; and housing administration, he added.

ASIATRUST Bank
ST LIFE

ASIATRUST AGREEMENT WITH FIRST LIFE

Asiatrust Bank (ATB) recently signed up an agreement with First Guarantee Life Assurance Company Inc. to implement an over-the-counter bills payment arrangement. This will give the clients of First Life the convenience of channeling their payments through any of ATB's 28 branches. ATB has the longest banking hours from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays with Saturday and Sunday banking at selected branches. Present to sign the memorandum of agreement were (seated, from left) Cora A. Mallillin, ATB FVP, branch banking group head; Dionisio C. Ong, ATB president and CEO; Peter Coyiuto, First Life president and CEO; Jaime Santiago, First Life EVP and COO.

HOSPITAL PRESIDENT PAF RESERVIST

Antonio Laperal Tamayo, president of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal Medical Center (third from right), has been commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel in the Philippine Air Force Reserve. Shown is Col. Certeza, commander of the Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Group (RATSG) pinning the RATSG badge. Tamayo will act as Commander of the PAF 1st Reserve Hospital Squadron under RATSG. Also shown are Technical Sergeant Ulysses Felix and Major Marcelino Ben, Deputy RATSG Commander. Commissioning of executives and key personnel from the medical sector and utility companies is in line with PAF Chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor's program for the PAF having a faster, stronger, and better Air Force reserve to respond to the call of service, attuned for a Citizen Armed Forces, trained, qualified and committed to perform during peace time and emergencies.

UMC VISITS GMA

Norio Matsumura (center), EVP of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. Of Japan, accompanied by Richard I. Lee, president of Universal Motors Corp. (UMC), paid a courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Matsumura was in Manila to commemorate the 30th anniversary of business partnership with UMC.

STOMER SERVICES &
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COMPAQ'S 'HOT OFF THE WIRE' ROADSHOW

Compaq Computer Philippines Inc., recently launched 'Evo' – a new sub brand of corporate computing solutions held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. The event is part of Compaq's 22-city mega roadshow, highlighting the innovative products and solutions that offer ease of use, simplified installation and affordability at unlimited use of the power of technology and the Internet. Shown (second from left) are Compaq's customer service marketing manager Egay Reyes, Nilo S. Cruz (right), Compaq's president and managing director and (left) singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez – guest artist during the well-attended event.

Valbuena new Tatap prexy

LAST Oct. 1, the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines elected a new president in the person of Victor U. Valbuena. He was Tatap's vice president for Region 9 prior to assuming the post which Rufino Go headed for eight years. Valbuena, himself a table tennis enthusiast, expressed gratitude to Rufino Go for his stint with Tatap and assured the coaches and athletes of a promising 4-year term.

Valbuena has prepared a plan to enhance the sport nationally by tapping the private sector to get more involved, by promoting the sport to school and communities nationwide, and providing venues at the grassroots level to play the sport. He has arranged regular meetings with national team members, coaches and private table tennis clubs to unite them under his leadership. With his good relations with international table tennis organizations, national team members can look forward to more exposure in international competitions.

To achieve this, he has initiated the biggest table tennis competition this year from Dec. 5 to 10 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and the Glorietta Activity Center. With major sponsor Rustan's Group of Companies, the table tennis community has flooded the office with inquiries and applications for the tournament. All clubs and individuals nationwide are invited to participate.

This tourney will be dubbed Rustan's 50th Anniversary Celebration National Table Tennis Championship. For inquiries, write or call the Tatap Office, Room 203 second floor RMSC-PSC Administration Building, Vito Cruz, Manila, telephone number 522-1885. Look for Mylene.

Workshop on principle-centered power

THE CENTER for Leadership and Change Inc. (CLCI) is holding a one-day workshop on The Power Principle: Influence with Honor on Nov. 6 at the Ballroom of Dusit Hotel, Arnaiz Street, Makati City. The workshop will be run by Dr. Blaine Lee, the author of the book "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor", and one of Franklin Covey Co's top rate consultants.

Lee's wisdom on the subject of power has been culled through years of extensive research and interviews with business people, CEOs, leaders, educators and sales managers on how power is used to achieve results.

Designed for businessmen, educators, government officials and leaders, managers, entrepreneurs and NGOs, the workshop is aimed at helping participants to know the meaning of the Power Principle based on honor rather than on the traditional use of force, fear, maneuvers and manipulations.

The Center for Leadership and Change Inc. (CLCI) is the authorized distributor of FranklinCovey programs, products and services, one of United States' premiere consultancy group in leadership development and time management programs. Its core programs consist of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" authored by Dr. Stephen R. Covey, "What Matters Most", and "4 Roles of Leadership."

For inquiries, call 817-2726 local 125-127, 114, 132, 135-127, 143 and 122. Or e-mail CLCI at clci@skyinet.net. Home address is CLCI, 4th floor, Ateneo Professional Schools (Salcedo), HV de la Costa Street, Makati City.

BITS & Clips

Diabetes, body fat lecture

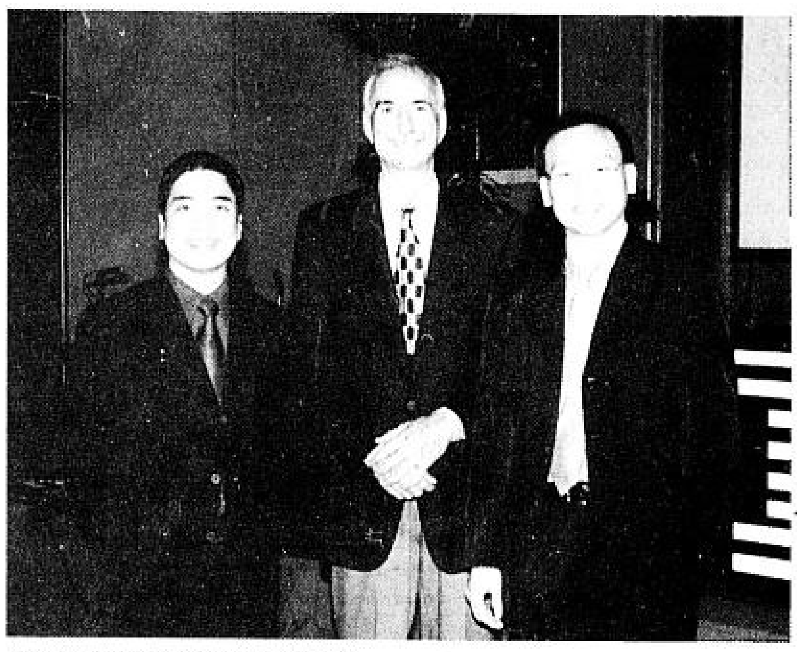
HFEPC is bringing back the American specialist in diabetes Dr. Abe C. Gibeily, Ph.D., who stunned the Filipino public with his revelations about diabetes and body fat, in another lecture discussing the facts about diabetes and body fat on Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Splendido Suites in Makati. Seats can be obtained by calling Health From Earth Life Support Hotline at (02) 660-2290 or at direct lines 669-8017 and 660-8376, or text 0916-3050010 or e-mail healthph@doctor.com.

Oktoberfest at NBC Tent

SAN MIGUEL Beer, the one and only beer responsible for bringing Oktoberfest yearly to the Philippines has another massive celebration cooking at the NBC Tent at The Fort this weekend, Oct. 19 and 20 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. In this "Chowtime Showtime Caravan" those who want to quench their sound-tripping thirst will enjoy a genuine 11-piece Bavarian band, while food-tripping guests will get to eat-and-drink-all-they-can with an assortment of Bavarian dishes. For inquiries, call 750-8888 loc. 2400, or check out smboktoberfest.pinoycentral.com for exciting events this week.

CPSP is 18

THE CORPORATE Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) invites all members to its 3rd general meeting and 18th anniversary celebration to be held at the Hotel Intercon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Oct. 18. Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio will give a speech on this year's theme "CPSP: Active Partner in Rebuilding the Nation." For registration and inquiries, call the CPSP secretariat at 632-3134. Look for Gentil Gentiles.



IBM EXEC VISITS MANILA

Mike Babin (center), director for Worldwide Data Management Sales and Sales Support of IBM Corp., recently visited Manila to launch IBM DB2 Universal Database version 7.2 during the company's e-business software solutions seminar for customers entitled 'DB2 and WebSphere: Perfect Combination' at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City. The new version of DB2 database software enables customers to integrate data from the widest variety of sources including Web application integration, access to critical data sources and legacy applications. DB2 Universal Database 7.2 delivers enhanced integration capabilities with WebSphere Application Server allowing for easier Web deployment, faster application development, and manage new Web services requests in the form of industry standards, SOAP and Uddi. Shown with Babin are Victor Silvino (left), IBM Phils. Country Manager, IBM and Lotus Software Group and Ser Yean Tan, IBM Asean/South Asia business development manager for data management.

MGS
CORPORATION

MGS GETS MICROSOFT GREAT PLAINS SOFTWARE

MGS Corp., a leading house construction company and supplier of building products for C&P Homes, SM Mall of Asia and Alabang Town Center, is getting Microsoft Great Plains eEnterprise, a seamlessly integrated enterprise application from Microsoft Great Plains Business Solutions. Microsoft Great Plains is a leading global provider of business management software optimized for Microsoft BackOffice, serving more than 40,000 e-business enabled customer sites worldwide. Microsoft Great Plains will implement the solution through its partner, Global Implementation Services Inc. (GIS). The contract was signed by Geocel R. Olanday, MGS Corp. CEO (seated, second from right) and Alex Ramos, Microsoft Great Plains' operations director for Asia (seated, second from left). Also present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) MGS president Michael Regino; GIS president Bernard Morgan; (standing) Microsoft Great Plains' customer loyalty manager Patricia Bernardo; GIS sales and marketing consultant Bing S. Ortega; and MGS finance manager Jasmin E. Lapan.

Theme: "SOAR HIGH IN SERVICE" - "MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS"
TESTANTS: QUEZON CITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

RCQC LAUNCHES ORATORICAL CONTEST

Rotary Club of Quezon City, RI District 3780, in collaboration with Department of Education's Division of City Schools for Quezon City, launches RCQC's first ever 'Voice of the Youth' oratorical contest to be held on Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Malcolm Theatre, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Shown signing the memorandum of understanding are Dr. Aquilina S. Rivas, Department of Education's school division superintendent of Quezon City (seated, 2nd from right) and director Genaro Simeon B. Tomimbang, director of vocational service and overall chair of the oratorical contest (seated right). Looking on (seated from left) are director Oliviano D. Regalado, assistant governor Dante V. Liban, and RCQC president Leovillo C. Agustin. Standing, from left, are deputy treasurer Arnold Fritz A. Mueller, director Mario C. Abasolo, treasurer Jose T. Santos, Department of Education assistant superintendent Josefina Gabriel, Cristina Monis, English department head, assistant superintendent Joel San Luis, secretary Percival F. Cruz, PRO Enrique A. Buenviaje and past director Jose B. Garcia.

B-MEG AGRILINK 2001

Messages

Greetings and warm welcome to all the participants and visitors of AGRILINK 2001 and FOODLINK 2001.

The holding of this important annual event augurs well in stimulating interest for our local agriculture. Its success in the past is indicative of the vast potential of the country's food and agricultural sectors and the dynamism of our young Filipino market. It is in this gathering that industries raring to modernize and go global are showcased and where a young market whose needs are as many and as varied as the number of its young population is reflected with the proliferation of diverse products and services.

Combined, these facets offer a big attraction and a bright prospect to local and foreign players who can forge partnerships in developing our still budding food and agriculture industries and supply needs of our large consumer base. In fact, the agribusiness sector, with its infrastructure and technology backlog, is itself a huge market for foreign firms involved in the manufacture and supply of high-tech capital equipment and system development products and services.

But more than the prospect of expanding their market reaches in the Philippines and the rest of ASEAN region is the opportunity to be a pioneering partner in the country's agricultural modernization. In this respect, we welcome the involvement of everyone in this undertaking to help us supply the capital requirement, create jobs, raise the country's farm productivity and make our agri-exports globally competitive.

With the projection that the region will be an important supplier of the world's food and agricultural requirements in the not-so-distant future, we are doing our best to establish a niche for Philippine produce. We therefore invite all the exhibitors to become not just a marketer but a major player in the Philippine agribusiness.

I wish the success of this eneavor and more power to all of you!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I wish to extend my wimest felicitations to the participants, exhibitors, sponsors and organizers of the 8th International Trade Exhibition and Conference, dubbed as AGRILINK 2001.

The Department of Agriculture takes pride in co-sponsoring this annual event which highlights our continuing partnership with the private sector to jointly promote and market our farm and fishery products here and abroad.

AGRILINK 2001 is indeed a fitting venue, where the country's agribusiness industry stakeholders meet their counterparts from the rest of the world, sharing technological breakthroughs, and broadening market linkages and relationships.

We therefore look forward to productive and successful exhibit and conference. Congratulations and more power! Mabuhay ang AGRILINK 2001!

LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

A warm welcome to all exibitors, participants and visitors to AGRILINK 2001.

San Miguel Corporation, through one of its strategic business units -- B-MEG -- is glad to be a key participant in AGRILINK 2001.

This year is an exciting time for B-MEG because Philippine agriculture is the one promising area that will strengthen the economy.

Since its inception, B-MEG has given due recognition to the socio-economic potentials in the countryside. Thus, for years, we have been running livelihood seminars and animal care missions to provide our rural folks with skills and know-how in animal raising.

AGRILINK is a venue to showcase the country's farm produce and the current technologies that help make these happen. It also gives us a perspective on what global prospects are available as basis for further agricultural gains.

San Miguel's traditional focus on agriculture was one of the considerations in our decision to acquire Pure Foods Corporation.

San Miguel Corporation will sustain its efforts so that AGRILINK continues to be an effective instrument for strengthening Philippine agriculture.

More success and power to AGRILINK 2001!

EDUARDO M. COJUANGCO, JR.
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
San Miguel Corporation

San Miguel Corporation's B-MEG: Feeding countrywide confidence via AGRILINK 2001

TODAY marks the 8th year of San Miguel Corporation's presence in the country's biggest, most prestigious international agribusiness trade show called AGRILINK 2001, which runs from today, the 18th to the 20th of October at the World Trade Center.

In support of the President's call to speed up countryside development, B-MEG personnel have done countless veterinary missions to give tips on animal care, livelihood seminars as well as dispense hog vaccinations and medicines.

AGRILINK is a brainchild of the Foundation for Resource and Linkage Development (FRLD), a non-government organization (NGO) whose mission is to create linkages and bring together the various players in agribusiness: farm producers, input suppliers and buyers from the local, national, regional and international markets.

B-MEG, the country's largest animal feeds producer and a vital member of the SMC Group, spearheads San Miguel Corporation's participation in this international gathering of agribusiness companies.

Once again, AGRILINK 2001 will be a venue that confirms B-MEG's leadership and optimism in the animal feeds industry. In fact, B-MEG remains undaunted by the worldwide economic slowdown, given the company's unprecedented nationwide gains throughout the year

With the twin phenomena of the administration's vigorous support for the agri sector on the one hand, and global competitive threat on the other; one can say that the country's agribusiness is in for "the best of times and the worst of times", depending on how you look at it.

B-MEG, as an upbeat member of San Miguel, looks to the times with guarded optimism tempered with a wisdom alert for opportunities in these difficult times.

Now more than ever, B-MEG believes the country as a whole would be best served to invest its energies and resources inwards, for instance, in the countryside.

GMA's call

In her State of the Nation Address (or SONA) last July, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emphasized agriculture's intensive and comprehensive development in the next few years, being a major pillar of her administration. She stated specific goals, which set targets not just for her government but also for the private sector to take its cue from and pursue as opportunities for generating more business.

With this in mind, B-MEG in turn has taken to the heart of the rural hinterlands, its mission being to grow this grassroots constituency into a business force.

To many grown cynical about the rate of rural progress, nurturing the grassroots as a business force looks like Don Quixote tilting at the windmill. For B-MEG however, this means educating the rural *masa* not just as a source of business but imparting to the individual farmer, fish catcher or hog raiser the mindset of an entrepreneur.

Considering that 70% of our GDP is agri-based, the drive to bolster levels of countryside productivity is the most logical starting point for any government serious about making the country's economic housekeeping well-ordered and organized.

More than this, and even as the country tries to be in-step with the IT revolution and its allied services, it remains a fact of Philippine life that nearly 90% of our countrymen rely on agricultural output for their businesses.

Here's where B-MEG via AGRILINK plays a crucial role in this exhibition: it opens minds and doors to the wealth of opportunities that lie fallow in the Philippine countryside. The trade show hopes to increase appreciation amongst local and foreign visitors for Philippine-made products and produce. Conversely, AGRILINK wishes to open local producers and suppliers to the global potential demand for their goods.

Real growth

AGRILINK and B-MEG believe that the economic viability of our agri-based rural folk is the engine that will boost our real growth in other aspects of the economy.

In short, before our country as a whole becomes an economic success, we have to set our agribusiness engines chugging along on a more consistently upward climb.

A look at recent histories of First World countries such as United States, Japan, Canada, England, France, Spain, Germany and Australia and the more recent prosperity of some ASEAN members such as Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, will show that these countries set themselves first on the road to agricultural development or primary business production, before they moved up in their economic life as industrial manufacturers and providers of a higher order of goods and services, and technologies.

It has become an understatement that an improved Philippine agri-based sector is long-drawn-out. As for B-MEG, the mission began nearly 50 years ago, when it started a category that today is one of the country's largest food providers: hog feeds

SAN MIGUEL / B1

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Agrilink's Gospel of Resource and Market Linkages

MOST people now agree that industrial growth will continue to proceed at the proverbial snail's pace without agricultural development.

Everyone agrees that the agriculture sector is the propellant of the country's growth but years of neglect have left the industry in the cellar of development.

To survive the onslaught of liberalized agri trade, it is common knowledge that the farm sector needs to be transformed, to give it a stronger market orientation.

Hence, the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development Inc (FRLD), a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization was formed to implement programs that enhance government directions in the agribusiness sector.

FRLD mission

According to Dr. Antonio Roces, FRLD President: "Stated simply, our mission is to establish linkages among producers, input suppliers and buyers so that our local farmers flourish in this farm-to-market chain. We need to impress upon our producers to deliver what the market wants, and not just what they can produce."

"Take packaging, as an example. We have the world's best mangoes. But our producers pack them into crates showing big, fat mangoes on top, and the quality drops as you dig deeper into the crate. This is unacceptable to the world market. Clearly, the name of the game is education, education, education."

To achieve this, they focused on the marginalized farmers because they make up the vast majority of rural workers. Networking and forging alliances with regional chambers of commerce, industry associations, federations and cooperatives, as well as government line agencies all the way to foreign buyers, the FRLD has evolved a range of services that provide key directions and a wealth of data to help government and investors implement programs and projects.

Their services include MARID (Market Information Dissemination), Market Linkage and Development and Market Promotion. In the area of market promotion, they started a trade exhibition now known as AGRILINK.

The official birth of Agrilink Exhibitions started with Piglink 94, and since then, farmers, hog raisers and breeders and other food professionals have come to rely on Agrilink when looking for suppliers and buyers, equipment, sources of materials and inputs, knowledge on the latest farm and breeding technologies and techniques and other market-relevant knowledge and know-how.

Going global

As agribusiness goes global and increasingly liberalized, Agrilink has likewise become the premier venue for industry leaders to discuss ways of improving the competitiveness and productivity of local agriculture.

Says Dr. Roces, "Last year, we had a turn out of over 150 national and international participating companies, displaying their products and services to some 12,000 visitors in just 3 days."

As the country beams optimism in its agri sector growth, it sees an ever-expanding demand for meal diversity and prepared foods, as well as new food products and technologies, raw materials, packaging methods and food processing equipment.

AGRILINK 2001 will be its 8th international agribusiness exhibition for agriculture, breeding, horticulture and fish farming products and services.

Together with B-MEG, they hope to create the right environment for exhibitors and visitors alike, the results of which they hope to filter all the way down to the grassroots all over the Philippines.

B- MEG's... (from page11)

main bailiwick,the company has expanded its production to support its aquaculture feeds operations. In 1995, SMFI began producing Tilapia fry to help meet the need of fish farmers in Luzon for quality seed stock. The company maintains a tilapia breeding and fry production facility in Calauan, Laguna and markets the fry as BEST 200 (B-MEG Enhanced Special Tilapia).

To accelerate production, SMFI engages the services of contract nursery operators who raise BEST 200 to the ideal stocking sizes, enabling the company's facility to undertake continuous breeding and fry production activities.

Quality is king

Bolstering B-MEG's market leadership is its unmatched quality. The company's feed mill is certified to the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 9002. ISO 9000 is a series of quality management and quality assurance standards setting the basic guidelines for the establishment of a quality system. Applied in over 90 countries worldwide, the series helps improve an organization's efficiency to enable it to be more competitive in the international market--to be world-class.

Innovation is the mother of success

Backing SMFI's leadership in feeds and poultry is its extensive research and development in animal nutrition, feed formulation and production, livestock breeding and growing, food processing, product development and other aspects of its integrated operations. The company's R&D facilities and programs include:

- ·A food development laboratory
- ·Poultry and swine facilities
- ·Applied and practical research activities in cooperators' farms

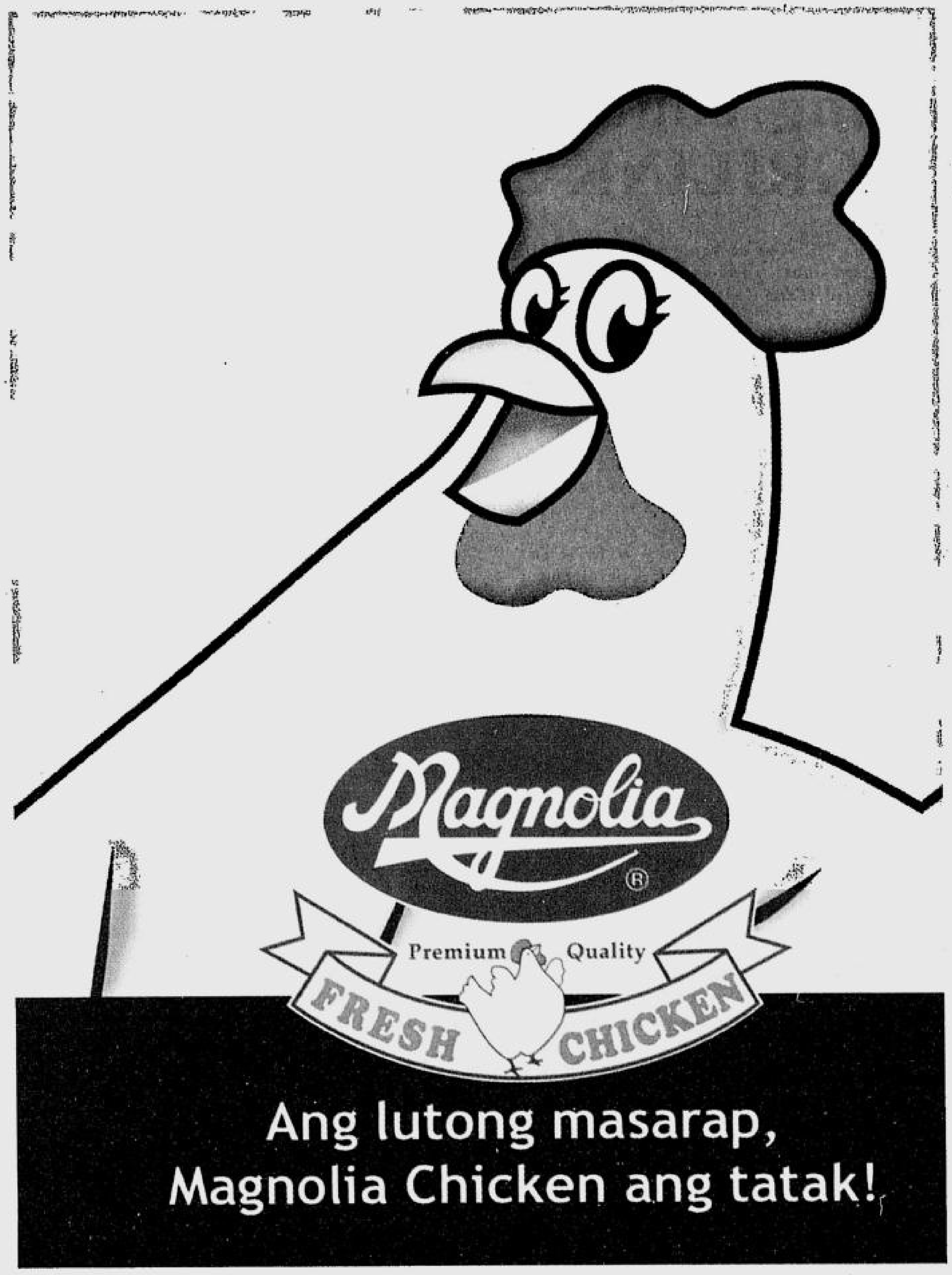
These facilities and activities help prawn, fish, poultry and livestock growers increase their yields at lower cost.

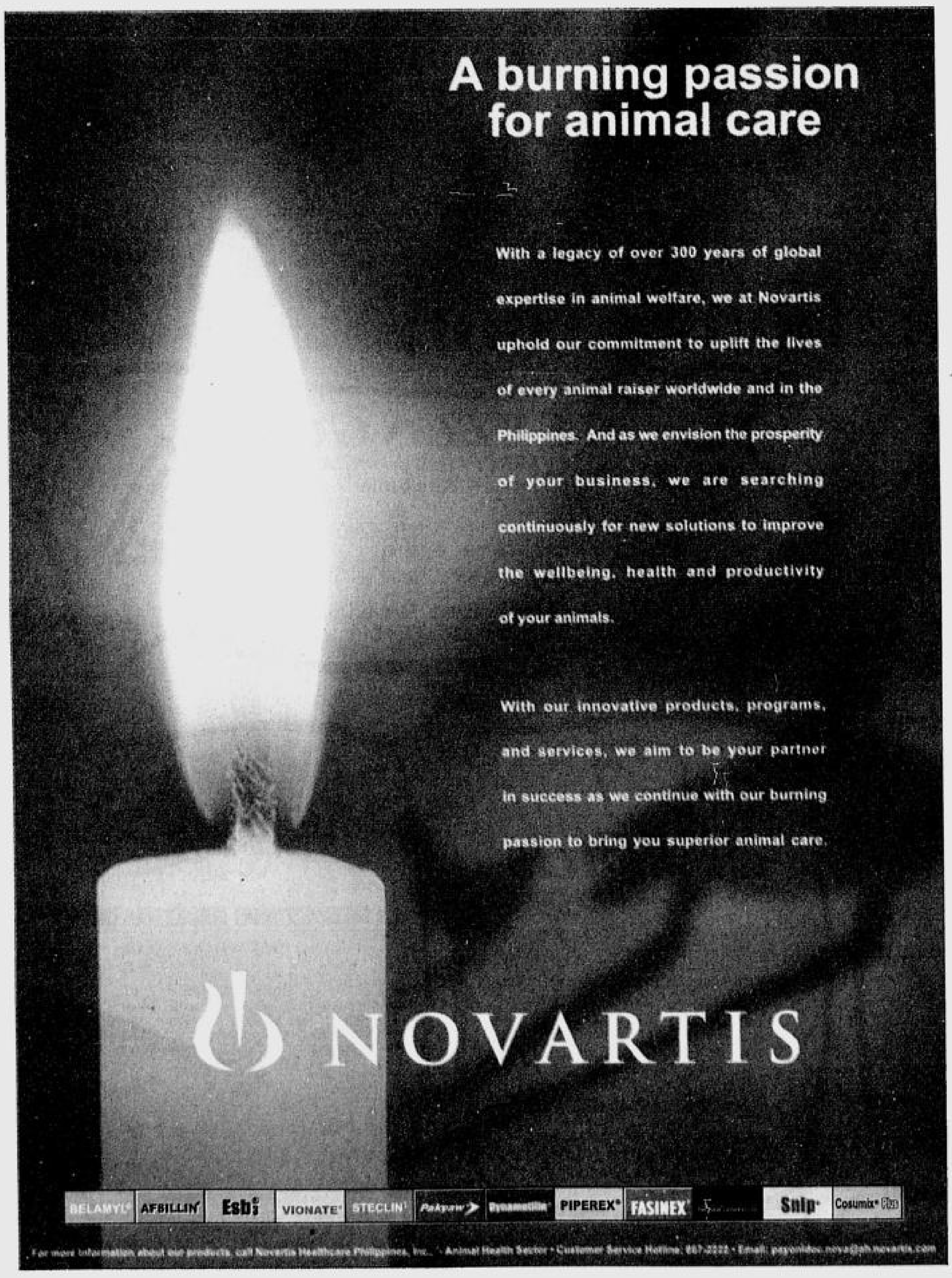
Service to customers is a privilege

The ultimate goal of B-MEG's drive is to improve farm productivity. Towards this, B-MEG's technical marketing representatives, aquaculturists, animal nutrition and animal production specialists, provide growers with technical support and advice--from feed regimentation to facilities development and livestock management---through all stages of their animals' growth.

Currently, and on any given day, a B-MEG livelihood seminar is being conducted in some part of the country. Periodically, and in partnership with leading animal health companies, B-MEG sends out animal medical missions to distribute medicines, vaccines or de-worm hogs.

To an outsider, the process seems tedious and uphill, but viewed over the long term, the cumulative results are proving to be a resounding confidence in the potential that reside in the grassroots and in B-MEG's (and for that matter San Miguel Corporation's) excellence and leadership.

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San Miguel ...

(from page 9)

production which gave rise to large-scale hog raising.

To date, B-MEG has helped in the dramatic progress of hog raising in the country as evidenced by the ever-growing volume of feeds it produces and distributes nationwide.

Market intimacy

Its intimate market knowledge has amply demonstrated hog raising as a profitable business whatever the income strata: from the lone backyard raiser to the medium-scale grower and the large farm institution. It has introduced well-known feeds brands in the market such as B-MEG Premium, B-MEG Dynamix, B-MEG Expert and Bonanza, where each product caters to a price level, and rewards a hog raiser's efforts with graduated turnarounds in growing periods.

Fleshing out B-MEG's pursuit of its mission to develop an entrepreneurial mindset in the countryside, are nationwide programs such as livelihood seminars on hog raising, animal vet missions to barangays, and teams of vets and nutritionists to give technical advice on matters relating to hog feeds and hog raising.

With B-MEG as a vital presence in AGRILINK, San Miguel Corporation, the country's food and beverage giant, reiterates its alignment with the government's call for increased agribusiness in the rural areas. As recently as three months ago, and in an effort to create better efficiencies to benefit end users in the food sector, San Miguel acquired Pure Foods Corporation, and its flagship feeds brand, PureBlend which will be a main feature in Pure Foods Corporation's booth at AGRILINK 2001.

Much has been done, still much remains to be carried out. With concerted efforts among government, non-government and private sectors aiming for seamless linkages as envisioned by AGRILINK 2001, the country will finally get its gears going--not just to survive but rather to flourish in an atmosphere of cooperation.

B-MEG's innovations in AGRILINK 2001 underscore its industry pre-eminence

FOR YEARS, B-MEG, a division of San Miguel Foods, Inc. (SMFI) has been an active participant in the annual AGRILINK show, and this year, its presence will underscore the leadership role it plays in the animal feeds category.

'Echoing B-MEG's national pre-eminence is a booth designed to be a towering landmark visible wherever a visitor stands in the cavernous halls of the World Trade Centre.

In it are various activities that will showcase B-MEG's activities in the rural areas: livelihood seminars, audio visual presentations, one-on-one consultations and games. As befits a leader, B-MEG will introduce within the trade show another innovation: a radio station dubbed Radio dzB-MEG, courtesy of its media partner, Manila Broadcasting Corporation, also the country's largest radio network.

Radio dzB-MEG will broadcast live interviews, agri news, games and music all throughout the show's three days. It will be heard within the halls of the World Trade Center and an 8-kilometer radius outside. Also, it can be patched for updates and greetings to any town in the entire archipelago.

B-MEG's stature in this year's trade show merely echoes its gains since it began in 1953 when San Miguel Corporation built a feed mill as an offshoot of its Brewery operation in Polo, Bulacan province (Polo is now Valenzuela City and part of Metropolitan Manila), to utilize protein-rich by-products of beer brewing. These nutrient filled derivatives became the staple in the commercial production of animal feeds.

The project became an independent operation in 1955 when SMC acquired a defunct brewery in Balintawak, Quezon City and converted it into the San Miguel Poultry and Livestock Feeds Plant.

The sub-brand name B-MEG, is a contraction of Bacillus megatherium, the bacterium from which a B-complex vitamin is mixed in the feeds to make it more effective.

Feeds breeds success

Using extensive research and development, B-MEG immediately gave the country's livestock industry a badly needed shot in the arm by dramatically shortening the growing period of animals, thus quickly achieving wide acceptance and market leadership because of its reliability and technological superiority.

Veterinarians and animal husbandry experts backed B-MEG with extension services that were widely available to growers anytime. Within a decade of its opening, B-MEG plant's capacity grew sixfold.

Expertise and superior technology in feed milling led to a new line of business --integrated poultry operations. SMC went into chicken breeding, growing and processing, starting in 1972 with the establishment of its first poultry-breeding farm in Alfonso, Cavite. The farm produced day-old broiler chicks that the company supplied to its first contract growers of Magnolia Chicken.

B-MEG Feeds' second plant--in Mandaue City--became operational in 1980 to serve the Visayas-Mindanao market.

Becoming the industry benchmark in hogs feeds, B-MEG Feeds expanded into feeds production for the entire range of livestock --poultry, fish and prawns and ostrich. It is in the hog feeds however that B-MEG stands preeminently through such superb brands as B-MEG Premium, B-MEG Bonanza, where each is strategically positioned to match market needs and capabilities, as well as the business goals of every raiser, from backyard to large farm operations that run into thousands of hog heads.

B-MEG also serves the needs of integrated poultry operations and commercial raisers of poultry, livestock and aquatic animals, the latter becoming the fastest growing sector in the animal farm business.

Feeding entrepreneurial hunger

In line with feeds production, B-MEG also focuses its resources on growing rural entrepreneurs who are always on the lookout for relief from economic pressures. Currently, 17 entrepreneurs throughout the country have signed up to operate feed mills for B-MEG. Consequently, they have become the company's business partners.

From hog feeds which has become B-MEG's

B-MEG's/ B10

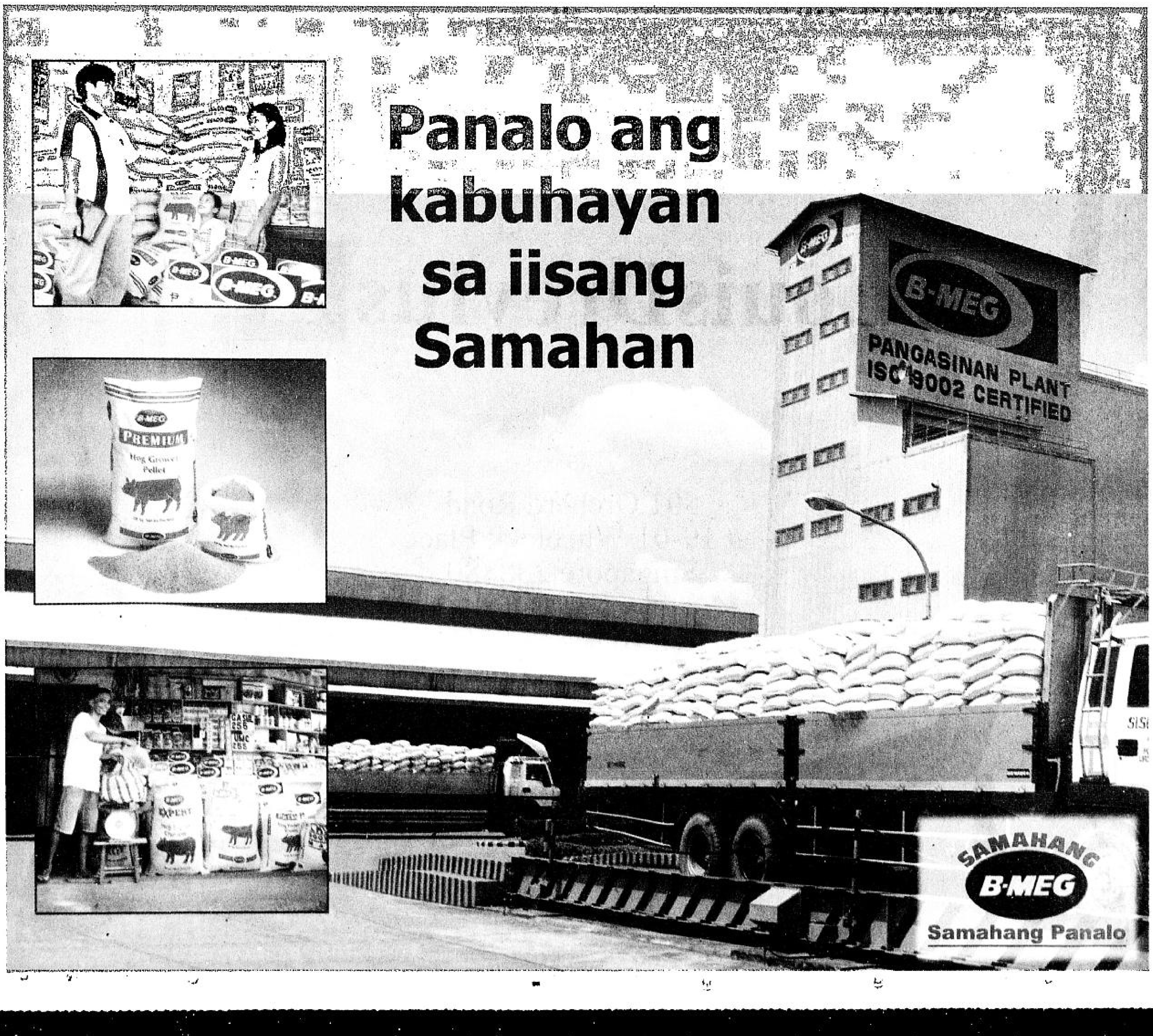
FREE SEMINARS

As part of B-MEG's program to foster entrepreneurship through various agri-based businesses, here's a schedule for those who would like to benefit from FREE livelihood seminars on animal raising and production at the B-MEG Booth, AGRILINK 2001 from the 18th-20th of October:

Thursday, October 18th, 2001
1:30 - 2:00 pm: B.O.S.S. Magnolia Contract Growing (Levi Harina)
2:30 - 3:30 pm: Q & A Swine Production (Dr. Arganosa)
4:15 - 4:45 pm: B.O.S.S. Fish Processing (Dr. Mimi Santos Yap)

Friday, October 19th, 2001
11:00 - 11:30 am: B.O.S.S. Fish Processing (Dr. Mimi Santos Yap)
2:00 - 3:00 pm: Q & A Swine Production (Dr. Arganosa)
3:15 - 4:30 pm: Recent Advances and Development in Swine Nutrition (Dr. I.G. Lumanta)
4:30 - 5:00 pm: B.O.S.S. Magnolia Contract Growing (Dr. Bertie Cepeda)

Saturday, October 20th, 2001
10:30 - 11:00 am: B.O.S.S. Fish Processing (Dr. Mimi Santos Yap)
11:30 - 12:30 pm: Q & A Swine Production (Dr. Arganosa)
1:30 - 2:00 pm: B.O.S.S. Ostrich Farming (H. Limketkai)
3:00 - 3:30 pm: B.O.S.S. Magnolia Contract Growing (Levi Harina)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BNew T'hse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

South Forbes Park LA 1787 FA 533 Pool 90M 8945297

Urdaneta Village LA 1158 FA 359 55M •894-5297•

MARIKINA

1511m² Ipil St., w/Pool Near S-Mall 6M 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

B-new Kalipunan Ext. 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

KAMUNING NEW 4BR 3T/B 180m² P6.5M #141 K-2nd St. Tel. 724-2629 • 410-7619

PROJ. 2 B'New B'FUL 3Sty 3B/R 4T/B P4M #19 Kubili St. Tel. 434-8186 • 724-2629

RUSH SALE
Pleasant View QC modern new bung 3BR2TB LA230m² T-9297052/54 Ofc.

SIKATUNA VILL.B'NEW BIG B'FUL 5B/R 7T/B W/Family Rm. P12M #13 MAPAGKUMBABA ST.Tel. 434-8054 • 724-2629

PROVINCIAL

MARAVILLA
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Along Pasong Camachile
Gen. Trias, Cavite
just a few meters away from Governor's Drive
P10,000 to reserve house & lot / lot
Owner / Developer
San Miguel Properties
Marketing Managers
FORTE REALTY
Call us 810-7577 / 810-7767
Brokers & Agents are welcome.

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8 LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

Safe of Flood and Faultline
Ridgmont Executive Vill
NR ORTIGAS EXT
CAINTA New very strong FRENCH Bungalow 3BR 2car port nr entrance/guard P2.2M Lot: 172m² Call 948-8240

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Bingas 6.5M 0919-2045695

LOT

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869m² Call 634-1212

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

PINEWOOD VILLAGE
Bucandala, Imus Cavite
across SM Resort
1st DP of P10,000
In-house or Bank Financing
Nr. Robinson, Makro & SM Bacoor
4396921 8295081
8262154 5310190
4220277 8209620

LOT

QUEZON CITY

BATASAN, nr. Filinv 2, P3,800/SQ 300 SQ, 5yrs-pay, 242-1521

RIZAL

FOREST HILLS 446m²
4121825•09177914366

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Industrial Park
Ready for Construction
P1,600/m²
Along Maguyam Road
Carmona, Cavite
Tel. # 635-8108 - Eloisa

Belereve Sta Rosa 565m² Facing East Rush 637-4009

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 3BR2TB 1.7M 8753350

MAKATI

Beautiful 3BR Skyland Condo Mkti. F/F w/prkg. 4Sale 6M 533-9776 / 633-6428

Prince Plaza 2, Penthouse 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

MANILA

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

PASIG

235 FA Rennaisance 3000 3BR 3TB 2 Prkng 634-1212

•Alexandra Units•
3BR F&FF 2Grg 216-250m² 641-1092 • 0919-4032997

QUEZON CITY

B-new Town-Hse Nr Grd Hse Goodwill Homes 1 Subd Kalipunan Ave Ext Nr SM City 4Units 3BR w/Attic 0917-8349005 • 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

Burgundy Loyola Heights 2BR 5312021 0917-3955738

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P 9120647 9132224 4381161

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

SANVILLE 2M 09195825646

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 Annapolis 176 FA 17th Flr. 634-1212

RESORT

PansolHotspringP7M 7767507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR3BR 3STY 3CR 8992148

MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL •5642878•

MANDALUYONG

2BR 10T; 1BR 8T; Studio 6T Boni No Car New 373-0587

QUEZON CITY

78 11th Ave Cubao4272560

SFDM 10T 2BR 2sty 374-3941

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

MEMORIAL LOT

The Heritage Park
Fort Bonifacio
NOW OPEN...
Selling Lawns, Gardens, and Estate Lots
Buy direct from the office:
The Heritage Park,
Corporate Bldg., Bayani Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Tel. No. 845-2341 / 845-2342 / 845-2651

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang House lot 475 sqm flr. 235 sqm •CALL: Myrna 893-1043•

PARANAQUE

INLAND MERVIL 2Br Mds Rm Grg NrAirport 15T 8223873

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTLand P.Tamo 24² 0916-3009348

Unit 2806 Penthouse 3 Salcedo Fully Furnished •CALL: Myrna 893-1043•

PASIG

Ortigas P16T 2BR 1mds/rm 126m² nr VV6 2588019

FOR LEASE

350m² Mkti Whse Off 7233697

Burgundy Westbay Twr coml/ofc 42-90 sqm •759-4091•752-2580• •303-0673•(0917)8381928• •(0917)7889202•

Comm.&Res.Apt.right side Makati City Hall 8103019

Int.Sucat Lot 1,555m² 5464463

ROOM & BOARD

(2)Ladies Zapote Makati 0919-6436105

BEDSPACE

M Roommate QC 0917-7953871

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

21 Timog 400m² P200T Neg. Office 50m² 15T 373-0587

For Rent 2 Room Office P8500 T-9219465;4260930

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Civic LXI M/T FRESH 323Neg 6888010 6313649

Accord EXI'97 A/T 460T 09173876810

HYUNDAI

•96 Grace P193T 9276597•

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

•98H100 P255T 9276597•

KIA

•98Besta 2.7 P255T 9276597•

•90Pregio 3.0 P320T 3303315•

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 3303315

TOYOTA

94 GLI Ltd P245 Neg. 925-1132

'99 Hi-Ace 09178314871

BUSES/TRUCKS

Directly Imptd, Fully Recon All Kinds of Trucks 20%DP T776-4287 • 0917-3318471 T776-7464 • 0917-4196856

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Ford Kubota Iseke 3672002

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

mazda HONDA
For your car needs... tires, battery, accessories & services.
RUBBERVOLT QC
3716783 • 3732942
CREDIT CARDS HONORED

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans •8203894•

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB H-Ace L3 Urvan 8257135

P1380 Strx/REVO 2941051

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

Toyco CarVanRental 8006595

VANS COASTERS 951-4379

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

10 20 35kva genset 3672002

HOME APPLIANCE

Just call we deliver 2HP Carrier suing model P9T 1.5HP P8T 1HP P6T 3ton packg type Koppel Carrier Alenaire good as bnew P30T 5-7.5ton P56T 9219465 4260930 4554061

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

IMU
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITI PERUBATAN ANTARABANGSA
MALAYSIA

IMU, the first private medical university in Malaysia extends its invitation to suitably qualified applicants to fill the position below for the Nursing Programme at the **Main Campus - Sesama Centre, Plaza Komanwel, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

NURSING LECTURER

Requirements:

- Master of Nursing (MN) or Master of Science in Nursing (MSc-Nursing)
- Bachelor of Nursing (BN) or Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc-Nursing)
- Post-basic nursing certificate/s (e.g. Midwifery, Operating Theatre, Renal Nursing, ICU, CCU)
- Teaching experience (classroom and clinical)
- Experienced in nursing for more than 10 years
- Aged below 45 years old
- Registerable with Nurses' Board Malaysia

Further information about IMU is available at the IMU website www.imu.edu.my and the general terms of service can be obtained from the Human Resources Manager, address as given below.

Please write in with a full resume, copies of academic credentials, contact telephone number, e-mail address and a recent passport-sized photograph (n.r.) to :

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
SESAMA MEDICAL COLLEGE MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (237397-W)
SESAMA CENTRE, PLAZA KOMANWEL, BUKIT JALIL, 57000 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.
Tel : 603-8656 7228 Fax : 603-8656 7229 E-mail : maggie@imu.edu.my

The interview will be conducted in Manila around the third week of November 2001. Date, time and venue will be notified in the letter calling candidates for interview.

KP (BPSG) 5195/333 (25)
Closing date : 1 November 2001
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

TRAINER 4528681 / 0919729020

SPORTING GOODS

• Billiards Sales/Service • Complete Acc's 8014494/8020566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buying Rolex Watch
Call 6310815;09178411520

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

Optr Roland 6574395 Cainta

FEMALE

All-Around-Maid: 4 Persons, SS P6-8T, Must Know How to Cook, Ph-4, Horizon Condo, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx, Ortigas Ctr, Pasig City

Private Nurse or Midwife, Big SS, Grad./Undergrad., Ph-4, Horizon Condo, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Urgent Need Cinema CASHIERS 18-25y/o Coll Lev @least 5"3"height Call 6418595 or proceed to Robinsons Ermita Cinema look for Arnel

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

Computer Technician
Sales Secretary
• 0917-8398638 •

Ofc Staff 7136116 Jack

Ofc Staff 9134470 Kyle

•URGENT OFFICE STAFF
9134470 Look for RYAN

WASHER & PLANTSADORA 4363434/9328970 Dyna;My

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Wanted HAIR STYLIST/All around BEAUTICIAN 8966519

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/Japan/ Canada/Europe/Korea /Australia&Canadian Immigrant/Student VISA Assistance. Marikina ofc 9342070-72 Pasig 6422436

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/Sell Educ'l 8061574

Who Do You Know in Baguio? TRAVEL & EARN •0743002262 09175064388•

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178101851

Earn From Home w/Travel 295-2107 • 0917-8135609

French International Company New Office Soon in Manila with a Market Potential of US$ 2.3Billion. Looking for ENTREPRENEURS / LEADERS to market their unique products. Pls. Fax 655854854 or email rsunkcstarhub.net

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FRUIT JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING! 2554643 UP 44 2569331 OR 36

Looking for Prepaid-Card Supplier 10T Pcs./Day COD 0917-7957608

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

Prepaid Cards Big Disc. 532-5774 • Mandaluyong

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

• WANTED •
Computer Whole Saler
T:8202777 C:0919-8669171

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Transfer Certificate of Title #48427 & w/ SN#429704 located at Villa-Mendoza Subd. Sucat Pque owned by **MIRLA FLOR MANLAPAZ** was lost. Special power of Atty. issued to Reynario M. Manlapaz is hereby cancelled immediately. Any transaction made by him will no longer be honored.
(PDI-Oct. 11, 18 & 25, 2001)

PERSONAL

Thank You HOLY SPIRIT
From Oda & Family

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Watch your wrist

Q. Why do most people wear wristwatches on their left hand?

A. The answer seems obvious at first glance: Most people are right-handed and use the right arm more often than the left. Thus, they are more likely to damage the watch while wearing it on their dominant hand. Sounds logical, but how come many left-handers also wear their watches on their left hands? Well, ever since the days of the pocket watch -- forerunner of the wristwatch -- the stem (the round part you wind) has been placed adjacent to the "3" (on the right-hand side of the watch). This location makes it awkward to wind the watch with the left hand, whether you are left-handed, right-handed, or ambidextrous. With the advent of today's windless watches, will this traditional wrist preference change? Only time will tell.

For the Record. The most expensive watch ever is a Patek Philippe "Caliber '89" with 1,728 separate parts. It was sold at auction for £1,894,304 ($3.315 million) in Geneva, Switzerland in April 1989.

Past Forward. This day in 1989: An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale claimed 67 lives and caused billions of dollars in damage in the Bay area of San Francisco. A section of the two-tier Interstate 880 in Oakland collapsed, crushing motorists driving on the lower deck.

WORD WATCH

Danger (dayn'jer) : originally, the word meant to be in someone else's power, derived from the Latin *dominus*, 'master,' in early England any whim of his master put a slave in *danger*.

PDI – October 18, 2001

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
MUNICIPALITY OF NAGUILIAN

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1 The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to prequalify and to bid is issued.

2 The Municipality of Naguilian, La Union as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to prequalify contractors and if prequalified to bid for the construction and completion of CONSTRUCTION OF ONE LANE RCDG BRIDGE at Mamat-ing Sur, Naguilian, La Union.

3. The works proposed to be undertaken shall include all labor, tools, materials and equipment necessary to complete the projects in accordance with the approved plans and specification.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT
A) 500 METERS BRIDGES APPROACH			
PART A:	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1194	SQ.M.
102(1)	COMMON EXCAVATION	492	CU.M.
102(2)	SURPLUS COMMON EXCAVATION	222	CU.M.
104	EMBANKMENT	270	CU.M.
200	AGG. SUB-BASE COURSE	263	CU.M.
202	AGG. CRUSHED BASE COURSE	372	CU.M.
303	ASPHALT JOINT SEALING	1125	LNM
311	PORTLAND CEM. CONC. PAVEMENT	358.08	CU.M.
500	REINFORCE CONC. PIPE (300 MM)	14	LN.M.
504	GROUTED RIP-RAP	611.11	CU.M.
PART B: BRIDGE	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1110	SQ.M.
103	STRUCTURE & EXCAVATION	432	CU.M.
400-15	TEST PILES	1	PC
400-16	CONCRETE PILING	2124	LN.M.
404	REINFORCING STEEL	171181	KGS
405-1	STRUCTURAL CONC. CLASS "A"	1604.2	CU.M.
405	STRUCTURAL STEEL	40	CU.M.
401	RAILINGS	19.75	CU.M.
411	PAINTING	800	SQ.M.
505	STONE MASONRY	397.50	CU.M.

Minimum Equipments Required

1	unit	Bulldozer	LGU
1	unit	Backhoe	Owned
1	unit	Road Grader	Owned/leased
1	unit	Road Roller	Owned/leased
1	unit	PayLoader	Owned/leased/LGU
8	units	Dump Truck	Owned
1	unit	Water Truck	Owned
3	units	Concrete Mixer (one bagger)	Owned

4. Prequalification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the Municipal Office of Mayor, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

5. Submission of application for prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of Naguilian, La Union not later than **October 25, 2001.**

6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **November 15, 2001**. No bids will be accepted later than 10:00 o'clock a.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

7. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEFERINO V. ARGUEZA**
Acting Mayor
Acting Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - Oct. 18, 20 & 21, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

ADHOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS
INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	: Landscaping Works along PICC Perimeter Fence
Scope of Work	: Work includes furnishing of materials, labor, plant, tools, equipment and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Landscaping Works for the PICC Complex, all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	: PICC Complex, Pasay City
Approved Budget	: Pesos One Million Six Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty (P 1,658,520.00)
Source of Funding	: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
PCAB License Classification	: IAC Category Small (Park, Playground and Recreational Work)
Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project	: Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) landscaping projects each costing at least two (2) Million Pesos preferably on landscape construction and/or development for commercial and institutional buildings requiring high end finishes and excellent workmanship of financial institutions, hotels and commercial establishment and other of similar or greater complexity
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't.	: Pesos One Hundred Seventy Thousand (P 170,000.00)
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms	
Cost of Forms	: Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	: Oct. 18 to 21, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents	: AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) : 2nd Floor-Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	: October 29, 2001 4:00 pm
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility	
Date and Time of Issuance	: November 13, 2001/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	: AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204
Bid/Tender Documents	: Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance	: Five Thousand Pesos per set (P5,000.00/set) AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	: November 13 to 14, 2001/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference	
Date and Time	: November 19, 2001 9:30 am
Venue	: BMD Conference Room/2nd Floor-Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids	
Deadline/Venue of Submission	: November 28, 2001/9:00 am to 10:00 am/AHCPP Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibility.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Futhermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Vicente E. Valdepenas, Jr.
Chairman

(Sgd.) Juan Quintos, Jr.
Co-Chairman

Note:
Information on the date, time and venue of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and deadline of submission/opening of bids are not indicated in the published/advertised invitation for prequalification. These information shall be announced in the notice of eligibility.

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 21, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 840-1401

INVITATION TO BID

The **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)** invites all interested contractors to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to submit bids for the following:

SECURITY SERVICES for ENERGY CENTER

Issuance of Eligibility Documents	**October 18-29, 2001**
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents	**November 5, 2001**
Issuance of Bid Documents	**November 14-22, 2001**
Pre-bid Conference	**November 22, 2001**
Deadline for Submission of Bids	**November 29, 2001 / 1:00 PM**
Bid Opening	**November 29, 2001 / 1:30 PM** DOE Audio Visual Room

Eligibility documents-checklist is available at the above-stated address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to the DOE-Management and Audit Division, 2nd Floor, DOE Main Building on or before the said deadline. Failure to pass the eligibility screening would render the concerned contractors automatically disqualified to join this bidding.

For purposes of clarifying issues, interested contractors are encouraged to attend the Pre-bid conference on **November 22, 2001**, 1:30 p.m. to be held at the DOE Audio Visual Room.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00), secured from the Government Services Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable insurance company duly accredited and registered under the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

The DOE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **BEN-HUR C. SALCEDO**
Chairman
AdHoc, Bids & Award Committee

(PDI - Oct 18 & 19, 2001)

National Power Corporation

RE-INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-56

Rebidding Date: October 26, 2001 - 10:00 AM

PB011015-PDHS6782	COMPUTERS/COMPUTER PERIPHERALS (Printer, etc.)/AUTOMATIC VOLTAGE REGULATOR
PB011015-PDRA6768	WALL CLOCKS, with NPC Logo/GOLD WRIST WATCH/GOLD RINGS
PB011015-PDEB6769	GUN BLUE PASTE, GUN OIL, LEATHER HOLSTER/MAGAZINE POUCH, VEST/JACKET
PB011015-PDRA6770	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, Portable, Class A-B-C, Capacity: 15.5 lbs.
PB011015-PDRA6771	INSULATING VARNISH, Silicon Resin, Clear
PB011015-PDER6772	SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS (Calcium Hypochlorite, Guardex, etc.)
PB011015-PDEB6773	BEARING, Ball single row, various sizes
PB011015-PDRA6776	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Repair of Navigational Equipments (Direction Gyro, Pictorial NAV Ind.)
PB011015-PDJR6775	SERVICES: Supply of Labor, Materials & Equipment for the Complete Repair of Roofing at covered parking per BGD-NPC drawing, specification & scope of work.

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm., Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the Metro Manila telephone directory.

Bidding documents available on **October 17, 2001** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Oct. 18, 2001)

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 8 November 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LDA-123	72 Apple St., Km. 18, Maywood Village II, Parañaque City.	340 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. 146227) with building and improvements	P 5,882,100.00
CRA-03a	Tugatog St. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela	1,000 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. V-57731) with buildings and improvements	P 4,194,900.00
LTY-143	2072 Anonas St., Sta. Mesa	300.2 m² residential lot (TCT No. 245737) with building and improvements	P 3,602,400.00
CRA-03b	Tugatog St. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City	375 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. V-57732) with building and improvements, and one (1) tanning and one (1) cylindrical drum	P 2,101,900.00
CRA-13a	Don Pedro Reyes St., Victoria Homes, Bo. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	525 m² vacant residential lot (Lot 29-TCT No. 3273)	P 1,207,500.00
CRA-13b	Don Pedro Reyes St., Victoria Homes, Bo. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	525 m² vacant residential lot (Lot 31-TCT No. 3271)	P 1,207,500.00
BULACAN			
VAB-80	Brgy. Lambakin, San Miguel	40,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-138507) with ten (10) poultry buildings, and other buildings and improvements.	P 11,396,300.00
VJC-34	Provincial Road, Bo. Sto. Niño, Paombong	1,000 m² residential/commercial lots (TCT No. T-61567 and 61568) with hospital building and various hospital and office equipment.	P 5,568,000.00
PAMPANGA			
MGT-74	Sitio Paralaya, Bo. Rosario, Mexico	888 m² residential lot (TCT No. 307931-R)	P 170,500.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
CRA-10	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) lot Ice Tube Making machinery & equipment.	P 1,320,000.00
2LAO-01	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Remaining parts of oil milling machinery	P 776,000.00
2LAO-02	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Motor truck scale Toledo Print Weigh "400"	P 612,000.00
VPI-60	EPZA, Rosario, Cavite	One (1) set Portable Concrete Batching Plant	P 475,200.00
VPI-81	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) unit Road Grader, HUBER WARCO	P 200,000.00
2LAO-03	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Three (3) units industrial transformers, 100-KVA	P 187,500.00
VPI-62a,c, e, 1 & p	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	Five (5) units of construction/heavy equipment	P 107,800.00 to P 498,900.00 per unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V.
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;
920-4794 and 920-4781 for Code starting with C; and
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code starting with 2L.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI--Oct.18 & 19, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENT
Industry and Investment Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

FAX NO.: 895-8322
Tel. Nos.: 897-6682
890-1332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of ALEX'S OCEAN COMPANY, INC. with business address at Davao Fish Port Complex, Toril, Davao City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as NEW EXPORT PRODUCER OF PROCESSED FISH AND OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS, at a capacity of 165 MTPY and with existing/proposed plant site at Davao Fish Port Complex, Toril, Davao City and Dole Diversified Processing Plant, Dole Compound, Calumpang, General Santos City, has been officially accepted on August 2, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this application.

(Sgd.) ATTY. CHITA O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – Oct. 18, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle,Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSALS

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Janitorial Services in the Commission.

Pre-qualification requirements and other information could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Chairman, NTC PBAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **October 25, 2001.**

Submission of complete pre-qualification documents/requirements shall be not later than 5:00 PM on **November 12, 2001,** to Ms. Lumantod at the above office address.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be issued a copy of the Request for Tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00, which shall submit bids in two (2) envelopes, one (1) envelope marked as Original and the other as Copy, on the date to be specified in the Notice of Prequalification. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned at NTC office, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **KATHLEEN G. HECETA**
Deputy Commissioner
NTC-PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2001)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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MAKATI
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811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all interested security printers for the Printing of Classified Materials for the Year 2001 PEPT, PVT, NEAT and NSAT Sampling Programs.

All interested security printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting October 15, to October 23, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 25, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on November 6, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

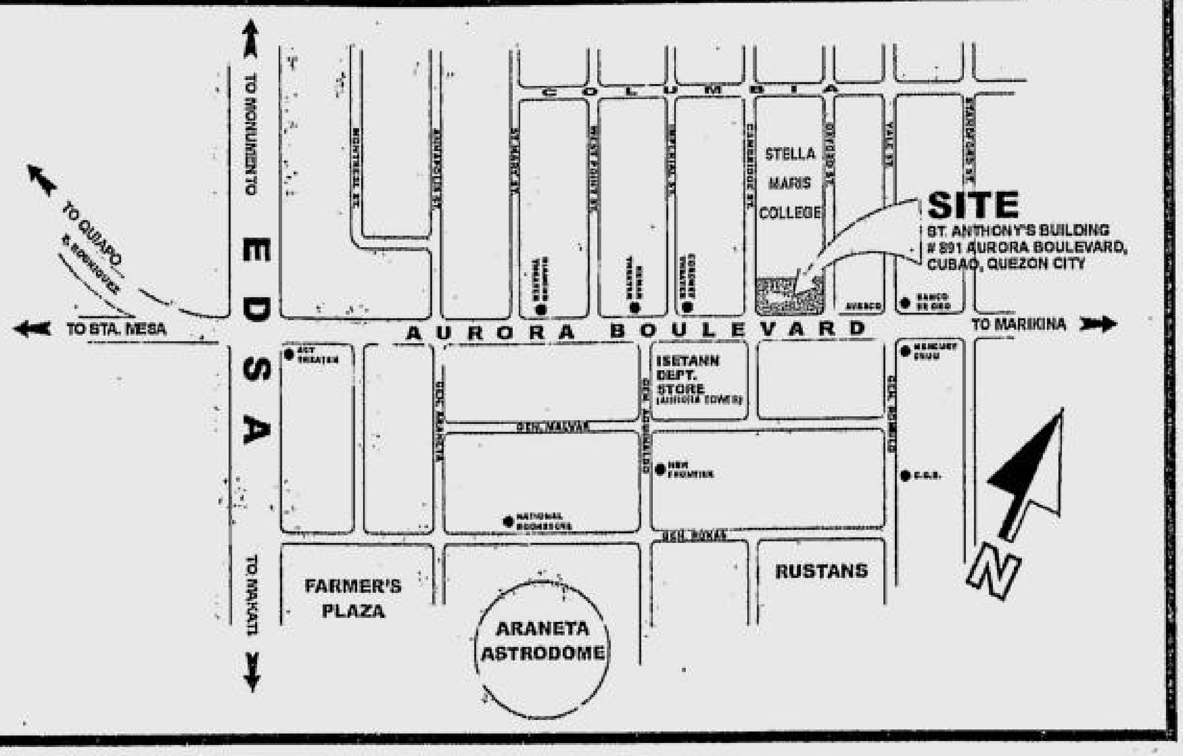
DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI–Oct. 17 & 18, 2001)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008 to 11.**



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"And we know you're shining down on us from Heaven...
And we know eventually will be together
One sweet day."

As we remember and pray
for the eternal repose of the soul of our beloved

Evelyn "Len" L. Hernandez-Banday

on her 40th day of being with the Lord,
we, the bereaved family
wish to express our sincerest gratitude
to all of you who condoled with us,
offered prayers and flowers and in countless ways
gave us the strength and comfort during the
most difficult moments of our lives.

Atty. Joey T. Banday
Hernandez Family
18 October 2001

Our Dearly Beloved

ROMAN GAMMAD BARBA

of **Cataggaman Nuevo, Tuguegarao, Cagayan**

Peacefully joined our LORD on October 15, 2001
at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Lilia**; daughters **Geraldine Marie** and **Lorelei Ian**; sons **Roman Kutz, Pau~Neil~Von, Tharanie, Ian Lorenzo** and **Christmas Sotero**; his grandchildren **Angela Lilia, Rocky, Baby, Kevin** and **Pauleanne Ma. Victoria**; his mother **Victoria**; his sisters **Belen** and **Elizabeth**; his brothers **Carlos, Mario, Eduardo** and **Percival**; in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Cataggaman Nuevo, Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Interment will be on October 21, 2001.

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

ELLEN LL. MAGTIRA

The Partners, Officers and Associates of
MULTINATIONAL INVESTMENT
BANCORPORATION
request relatives and friends
to remember Ellen in their prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Join us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
which will be offered today at 7:00 p.m.
at St. Andrew The Apostle Parish
Bel-Air, Makati City.

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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243 A-B, Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street,
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Tels. (075) 515-5980, 515-6529, (0919) 348-7131

"Papa, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love and goodness will live with us and remain in our hearts forever..."

IGNACIO B. NEBRIDA, M.D.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 14, 2001 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **NITANG RIVERA**; children **IGNACIO JR. (TOTO), ANGELA** (†), **DR. EVELYN, MARIA LUISA FATIMA (BABY), VICENTE (TING)**; daughter-in-law **TERESITA MORALES**; sons-in-law **DR. RENE GEGA, KLAUS H. BUNTUA, MELVIN HALIKMAN**; grandchildren **DR. LIA, JOEY, ATTY. MARIE, AILEEN, TRIXIE, ERICA, ARCHIE, CHRISTIE** and **JODI**; brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City up to Thursday, October 18, 2001. He will be transferred to Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Center, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City on Friday, October 19, 2001 where a Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. in honor of his 85th birthday.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Quezon City.

LUISA (Loi) de GUZMAN FAJARDO

Peacefully joined her Creator on Oct. 16, 2001
at the age of 73.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, Oct. 19, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Q.C., after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the children of the late

GAUDENCIO S. MAÑALAC

who joined his Creator,
and his beloved wife ***Consuelo***
on October 4, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and notes of sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the services and funeral rites and those who, in countless ways, condoled, helped and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

"You will forever be in our hearts Daddy."

RODOLFO B. GONZALEZ, SR.

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on October 16, 2001
at the age of 66.

His loving wife **LUPE**; children **GIGI, JON** and **ARMEL, MIKE** and **FRANCIS**; grandchildren **R.A.** and **ELA**; brothers and sisters **CARLOS, REYNALDO, ZENAIDA, ASTERIO, ESTRELLA** and **LEOPOLDO** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

We know
that God
raised the Lord
Jesus from
death. He will
raise us to life
with Jesus. He
will present us,
along with
you, to God.
2 Cor. 4:14

RODOLFO C. FERNANDEZ

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 15, 2001 at the age of 48.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 20, 2001 at La Funeraria Paz after the Requiem Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Eternal rest please grant unto Him O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon Him.
May he rest in peace.

40th Death Anniversary
of the
LATE PRESIDENT

SERGIO OSMEÑA, SR.

(1878-1961)

Masses will be offered at the following Churches
on 19 October 2001:

St. John Bosco Parish Church *Pasay Rd., Makati City*	12:15 noon
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
Malate Catholic Church *Malate, Manila*	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church *Bel-Air Village, Makati City*	6:30 p.m.
St. James the Apostle Parish *Plaridel, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
Basilica Minore of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral *Malolos*	6:00 a.m.
Parokya Ni San Isidro Labrador *Pulilan, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
Basilica del Sto. Niño *Magallanes St., Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church *Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church *P. del Rosario St., Cebu City*	6:30 a.m.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral Parish *Cebu City*	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish *Cebu City*	5:30 p.m.
St. Therese Parish *Lahug, Cebu City*	6:00 p.m.
San Roque Parish Church *Wireless Mandaue City*	6:00 p.m.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

Allyn F. Subida - Eclipse MD

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 15, 2001
at the age of 39.

Her beloved husband **Jun**; children **Eloise, Jon Alec (AJ), Angela**; mother **Angelina**; sister **Glenda**; nephews **Inigo** and **Mikee**; other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence #1755 Bernardo St., Cardona, Rizal.

Interment will be on October 20, 2001 at the Cardona, Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Sto. Rosario Parish, Cardona, Rizal.

Arch. ANTONINO "TONY" P. FERNANDEZ

Architect, Former Dean, College of Architecture,
University of Northeastern Philippines, Iriga City
Professor, Martinez Memorial Colleges, Caloocan City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 13, 2001 at the age of 63.

Devoted and faithful husband to Remy; loving father to Re-Anne Joy, Arlene & Leo Mar de los Santos, Aldwin Roy & Hannah Frances; generous and caring brother to Juan, Felisa, Moises Jr., Arsenia, Socorro, Marlene and Vilma.

His remains lie in state at Faith Baptist Church Social Hall, #4 Bulletin St. cor. West Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park along Quirino Highway, Quezon City, right after the 2:00 p.m. Necrological Service at F.B.C.

Nissan still tops pickup segment as Ford launches Ranger attack

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

2002 FORD Ranger

NISSAN'S Frontier pickups continue to dominate the expanding pickup segment with sales totaling 1,658 units, putting them ahead since the beginning of the year.

August and September sales show that the combined Frontier 4x2 and 4x4s sales added up to 355 units as against Isuzu's 209 and Mitsubishi's 264 for the same two-month period.

Isuzu comes in close second with a total 1,070 units sold, with sales dipping to only 96 units for September. Mitsubishi comes in fourth behind Ford with combined sales of the L200 Endeavor and 4x4 Strada at 970. Toyota only has a 6 percent total market share with its Hi Lux line garnering a total of 294, with only seven sold last September.

Ford's combined high-end and mid-range pickup sales totaled 1,546 as of September 2001. Data provided by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMAP) however, do not make a distinction between the more expensive Explorer Sport Trac and the Ranger.

Overall dominance

Elizabeth Lee, senior vice president for marketing of Universal Motors Inc., assembler and distributor of Nissan utility vehicles, says the overall dominance of the Frontier is a result of its "high value for money package."

"It is the first truck in its category to have introduced an automatic transmission, airbag for safety and largest engine displacement available in the market," she stresses.

Lee also points to the strong reputation of Nissan pickup trucks as contributing highly to its success.

Onslaught

Ford, however, has prepared an onslaught in this category with the introduction recently of the 2002 edition of the Ranger. Still retaining its bold, F-150-like looks, the freshly revised Ranger now sports restyled 15-inch wheels, a new bull-bar skid plate combination, a new body type without the rope rails and hooks.

Safety has been upgraded with the addition of dual airbags and side impact beams, while a limited slip differential takes care of the traction duties. A single in-dash CD replaces the previous cassette-radio combination.

The Frontier also has airbags, a smooth cargo bed profile and most of the essential amenities, with the addition of leather seats but also offers an automatic transmission and the biggest engine available in the diesel pickup category.

High expectation

Dave Gutman, Ford's marketing guru expects a lot from the Ranger. "We'd like to see leadership in this (mid-size diesel pickup) category as well," he tells the motoring press assembled for the Ranger launch.

"We're aiming for a market that has an active lifestyle," Gutman says in a separate interview with the INQUIRER. "We'd like to penetrate into the market of those buying Nissans and Isuzus because we know our product can reflect the hardworking nature of that market." He however admits that Nissan's standing for reliability and Isuzu's reputation for durability are still factors to "hurdle over."

Ford's product positioning for the Ranger revolves around the "proudly not-a-yuppie new achiever" idea and builds on the performance, safety features and distinctive styling of the 2002 Ranger. This, according to Gutman, reflects the "individual's drive for success, adventure and individuality." The American carmaker expects to sell 1,400 Rangers by the end of 2001. And despite bleak economic forecasts and a continued downturn for the automotive industry, Ford wants to sell 2,000 Rangers in 2002.

Nissan, however, will not allow its market share to shrink. Says Lee: "We aim to maintain and sustain the Frontier's dominance in the market through continued innovation and keeping close track of our customers' changing needs, as well as anticipating their future needs. This will give our products an advantage over the competition."

Altis No. 1 again; cars galore by December

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT'S Toyota doing?

For the second straight month, Toyota is No. 1 again in auto sales.

It's getting to be a habit, huh?

* * *

Recent figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) showed that Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMPC) sold a total of 1,934 units to earn a market share of 25 percent in September.

Likewise, Toyota's flagship models—the new Corolla Altis and the Tamaraw FX Revo—both emerged the best selling models in the passenger car and commercial vehicle categories, respectively.

What can I say?

Cheers to Toyota mainstays like Danny Isla, Raymond Rodriguez, Ariel de Jesus and Charlon Alcala.

* * *

Toyota attributed its strong sales showing to the successful launch of the new Corolla Altis, which was introduced only in July.

Thus, in three months, the Altis was tops in its class, back-to-back in August and September.

Strong market demand for the new Altis resulted to strong sales figures for September with sales reaching 658 units for an almost 32 percent share of the total passenger car market.

Toyota sold 828 passenger car units in September to lead the category for the second straight month.

Honda, according to Campi, saw its sales drop by almost 50 percent from last month. It placed second with a total passenger car output of 379 units, 258 units of which belong to the Civic model line which was introduced earlier in the year.

Campi also reported that even the recently introduced Nissan Sentra managed to outsell the Civic with a total output of 298 units in September. Nissan sold 345 passenger cars to stay in third.

What seemed to trigger the Altis' strong showing? Brad Pitt? Toyota's tradition of excellence? Or simply Brad Pitt? Your guess is as good as mine.

* * *

But still, Campi records showed that Honda kept the overall lead in the year-to-date category (smile *naman diyan* Arnel and Tin Tin). It totaled 5,892 units in sales despite a huge drop last month. Toyota was second with sales of 3,978 units while Nissan was third with 2,765 units.

In the commercial vehicle (CV) segment, Mitsubishi remained unbeatable. It was No. 1 last month with 1,310 units sold. Toyota was second with total sales of 1,106 units, with Isuzu finishing third with 922 units sold.

The good sales performance of Mitsubishi's light commercial vehicle (LCV) models and trucks and buses contributed to the company's good CV sales in September.

* * *

In the AUV segment, the Toyota Tamaraw FX Revo asserted its reputation once again as the country's best-selling model with a total sales output of 860 units for September.

The Revo nipped Mitsubinishi's new Adventure, which sold 854 units last month. The new Isuzu Hi-Lander was third in the AUV category with sales of 630 units.

The erstwhile strong sales performance of the Adventure pushed Mitsubishi past Toyota in the year-to-date total of the commercial vehicle category with a total of 10,400 CV units as against Toyota's total sales of 10,394 units sold from January to September. Isuzu was third with 7,128 units sold in the first three quarters.

In total market sales, Toyota was expected to clinch its 11th year of market leadership as it continued to lead the market with total sales of 14,372 units, commanding a 25 percent share of the domestic market. Mitsubishi was second for the year with total sales of 12,354 units. Honda was third with 7,167.

By December, sales of passenger cars, AUVs and CVs will surely score some modest increases despite the hard times. Traditionally, Filipinos love to unload their cash during the Yuletide.

Already, a friend of mine is planning to buy an Altis before Christmas. Another wants a Rav 4. Still another dreams of either a Nissan Patrol or an Isuzu Trooper. And an uncle of mine may yet buy a Mitsubishi Adventure. The Ford 150 is the dream vehicle of my golfmate.

Whoa! I wish I had the moolah, too, by December. I need a down payment when I finally buy a new one—with help as usual from my bosses here through the newspaper's durable, lovable car plan.

So, don't be surprised if by December, you'll see me driving my new vehicle. A car? An SUV? Or an AUV?

Make a guess and you'll win free beer.

* * *

***QUOTE ME.* It pays always to buy a brand-new car. Less headaches.**

Politics and motoring

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

TRAFFIC on Edsa has vastly improved ever since the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) cracked down on "colorum" buses. The success of the project to eliminate nonfranchised buses illegally plying the Edsa route proves that when there is political will to enforce the law, the general public benefits. This was one of the rare instances when the MMDA made a sincere and sustained effort to enforce a traffic regulation other than the "color-coding" car ban and the "No right turn on red light" signs that have suddenly mushroomed at busy intersections. But more on that later.

Whether you like it or not, the MMDA alone has the power to enforce the Land Transportation and Traffic Code (Republic Act 4136) in Metro Manila. RA 4136 was passed 37 years ago in 1964 and badly needs updating, but the efforts of the Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly known as the Philippine Motor Association) to do so have failed so far to interest Congress.

In 1994, Congress enacted RA 7924 creating the MMDA and defining its powers and functions. One major function is to "install and administer a single ticketing system, fix, impose and collect fines and penalties for all kinds of violations of traffic rules and regulations, whether moving or nonmoving in nature, and confiscate and suspend or revoke driver's licenses in the enforcement of such traffic laws and regulations, the provisions of RA 4136 and PD 1605 to the contrary notwithstanding. For this purpose, the authority shall enforce all traffic laws and regulations in Metro Manila, through the traffic operations center, and may deputize members of the PNP, traffic enforcers of local government units, duly licensed security guards, or members of nongovernment organizations to whom may be delegated certain authority, subject to such conditions and requirements as the authority may impose." (Section 9F of RA 7924)

In other words, traffic policemen and traffic enforcers of local government units were relegated to the subordinate role of deputies of the all-powerful MMDA. As for the LTO, its officers and agents are not authorized to enforce traffic rules and regulations in Metro Manila. RA 7924 superseded RA 4136, which had provided that the director of the Land Transportation Commission (now the LTO) "shall have exclusive power and authority to suspend or revoke for cause any driver's license issued under the provisions of this Act." (Sec. 27 of RA 4136)

Although the MMDA charter was approved by Congress in 1994, it has political undertones in that it was drafted and entered the legislative mill during the time when Cory Aquino was President and (now Senator) Tessie Aquino-Oreta's brother-in-law, Peng Oreta, was Metro Manila governor.

No national government agency relishes losing turf, least of all to a public corporation/local government conglomerate like the MMDA. Small wonder that animosity exists between the LTO and MMDA and the logical result of that animosity is the traffic mess in Metro Manila. At a media forum the other week, LTO chief Gen. Edgardo Abenina called the MMDA "The Republic of MMDA" because it acts like an independent power and state unto itself.

It was the MMDA that instituted "color coding" or the "voluntary traffic reduction scheme" whereby motorists, under pain of a P300 fine, cannot use their cars one day a week depending on the ending number of their vehicle's license plate. Then MMDA Chair Jejomar Binay even extended this car ban to Saturdays until then President Estrada, in a rare act of enlightened governance, lifted the ban. Naturally, after that setback, the MMDA has been zealously enforcing its "color-coding" regulation to the extent that MMDA traffic aides seem to be doing little else except standing on sidewalk corners reading the license plate numbers of passing cars in the hope of catching a transgressor.

Recently, the MMDA displayed its over-arching power over the LTO by refusing to recognize the exemption from the "color-coding" ban of cars bearing the Alay Lakad 2001 commemorative license plate. The issuance and sale of 1,000 commemorative plates was officially approved by LTO Chief Abenina to help the Alay Lakad Foundation raise funds for its projects for out-of-school youth. But MMDA Chief Benjamin Abalos refuses to issue a memorandum granting the exemption and has instead referred the matter to the MMDA Legal Department, where it may be doomed to pending status until the validity of the commemorative plate expires in March 2003. Motorists who called the MMDA to inquire about the exemption were tersely informed that they would be arrested if they use the plate on their car-ban day. One young motorist who called was even threatened with a P7,000 fine.

All of which makes you wonder: did RA 7924 create a monster?

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If ignorance is bliss, then tourists are in a constant state of euphoria.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph

Unexpectedly satisfying performance from a diesel van

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE VITO L 110CD. A real Benz in the van department.

MERCEDES-BENZ made quite a dent in the Philippine van market with its rebadged Ssyangyong MB100. Though well-equipped and likeable especially for domestic duties, to most gearheads, the MB100 is not a real Benz, despite the technologies shared and the badges to prove affinity.

The Vito L 110CD is Mercedes-Benz's response to the clamor for a "real" Mercedes in the people-transporter department. Spacious, powerful and surprisingly nimble for its long wheelbase, the Vito provided long hours of comfortable travel and was amazingly fuel frugal confirming that a real Benz is a Benz, no matter what the form.

Some nasty comments?

Tessa: Here's a striking intro: I heard and read some pretty nasty comments about the Vito. Being a "good van let down by an underpowered and unrefined diesel engine, said a UK car magazine."

Raymond: Those comments were probably meant for the older Vito models. Mercedes has since scrapped those sluggard engines, replacing them with a new range of drivetrains that more than silenced those nasty criticisms.

Vito owner: Before I bought the Vito I read about build-quality issues. But I trusted my instincts and went ahead with the purchase. I have not been disappointed.

Raymond: The 110CDI is fitted with a 2.2-liter four-cylinder direct injection diesel and a turbocharger with intercooler.

Mind you, that little lump outputs 102hp with the revs peaking at 3,800. The engine plateaus at about 2,500 with about 250 NM of torque produced.

Tessa: I read somewhere that the Mercedes' electronic diesel injection system is superior in reducing fuel consumption, noise and emission. Besides, with the not-so-clean diesel fuel we have here in the country, I heard this model has a filter that "purifies," so to speak, the diesel fuel.

Peddie Agoncillo: This is a diesel? Sure doesn't sound like one.

Raymond: So true. With the computer-managed direct fuel injection and multivalve technology there is a tremendous improvement in driving performance. Just see how fast we are going and how smooth the ride is with comparatively less noise and vibration.

Vito owner: I bought my Vito from an independent importer early last year. The only difference with your Vito is the captain's chairs and some cabin revisions like the wood grain paneling and the pile carpeting from Exotic Wood Dash and the Westfalia pullout tent. The alloy wheels are original Benz pieces. I got the twin-screen Audiovox video system only last month.

Raymond: Wow! Those are major differences! The full-featured captain's chair option alone will set you back about P40,000. How much for the rest?

Tessa: The version we have here only uses steel rims with plastic hubcaps.

Strikingly different

Raymond: The Vito is strikingly different when compared to the Jap vans. It is boxy but with the contours at just the right places.

Tessa: There's ample space, a huge payload capacity and a huge tailgate. Pushing two buttons to open two windows behind the van is like opening the brake flaps of a plane.

Peddie: *Ang laki sa loob* (It's so spacious)! The legroom up front is generous. Compared to my L300 it is massive. Is it hard to maneuver?

Raymond: You'd be surprised. It drives easily and has ample sight lines with panoramic windows everywhere.

Peddie: *Pero walang* (But without) airbags.

THE CENTRALLY located shifter.

Vito owner: I once worked in Europe and drove one of these every day. That's where I fell in love with it. I traveled across Europe all the way to Italy to France and the UK nonstop. Took us about 4 days crossing several borders.

Raymond: How did it feel?

Vito owner: The Vito is very comfortable even on long drives. *Hindi nakakapagod* (It's not tiring).

Tessa: Aside from the way-cool reversing sensor, the gearshift lever is fascinatingly different.

Raymond: I liked that a lot, too. Mounting the gearstick on the dashboard makes it easy to cross the cab from driver to passenger side.

Tessa: Driving it is so easy. Ride height, forward vision, controls, everything is in order.

Raymond: It also has a really long wheelbase—exactly 3,000 mm—which is about 505 mm shorter than the Ford Chateau Wagon. That'd give the Vito its exceptionally straight line stability.

Peddie: *Ang galing, ano? Kahit mahaba ang gaang dalhin* (Superb, isn't it? Even if it's long, it's light to handle). The drive wasn't what I expected at all.

Tessa: If it is so long why does it turn so well?

Vito owner: Because the wheels are mounted forward of the cab. That gives you a good turning radius.

Raymond: Curb-to-curb turning radius is only 11.5 meters.

Tessa: I did a remarkable turn, too, in my favorite *eskinita* (narrow street), resident cars double-parked and all.

Much too basic inside

Tessa: It does not feel very "Mercedes-like" inside. None of the ambience we come to expect with a Benz. No soft, plush carpeting. Only five cupholders for 10 passengers. No leather seats and door accents. And no vanity mirror!

Vito owner: That's why I opted for the pile carpeting and the wood grain.

Raymond: Really drab inside, isn't it? And even I, disenchanted hater of faux veneer, am looking for that warm touch to all the plastics. The MB100's interior looks more jazzed up, more closer to Benz than this.

Tessa: Jazzing up is all it needs. Indeed many Vito buyers I heard, prefer to jazz up the interior with some personalized styling and seat changes to bring it closer to the Benz ambience they are looking for.

Peddie: *Hindi masyadong maganda sa loob.* Basic *lang. Walang masyadong laman.* (It's not too beautiful inside. Very basic. Very bare) I was expecting much more from a Mercedes-Benz.

Raymond: I am also not impressed with the way most of the controls are laid out in the center console. The grouping takes some time getting used to it.

The huge headrests hamper rear vision, even with the reversing sensors, it takes a lot of nerves to back up even in not-too-tight spots.

Tessa: Well, I do find some of the controls "challenging." That's what manuals are for. And yes, rear vision is less than desirable.

Raymond: Did you notice the aircon switches off every 15 minutes or so?

Vito owner: That is the recirculation system. I disabled the "fresh air" feature and opted for full recirculation in my Vito because all you get are diesel fumes and the smell of Manila smog.

Tessa: Instrumentation includes a digital trip meter and clock, which are nice. And isn't Magneti Marelli the company that does the electronics for Ferrari?

Raymond: Yes.

Tops in performance and safety

Raymond: The Vito uses 4-wheel disc brakes. I am wondering if that switch on the dashboard means "W" for winter mode as in the Electronic Traction System (ETS) found in the Benz sedan. And the brochure doesn't say if it has Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBV). It has a foot-operated parking brake, just like the Fords.

Tessa: It's got a good pull. But at first, I thought its AT transmission wasn't shifting. I glanced at the tachometer and realized it was, indeed, shifting. Just did not feel it.

Raymond: There is no shift shock but the shifter itself is a bit notchy. The gearbos is great! I never feared overtaking.

Peddie: *Ang lakas humatak at ang bilis tumulin* (It's both torquey and fast).

Tessa: I agree. It's so quiet that sometimes I have to remind myself that it's a diesel before refilling in gasoline stations.

Vito owner: On the autobahn, it could reach up to 180 kph. And sustain that speed for hundreds of kilometers without feeling jittery.

Raymond: The sweet spot is at exactly 100 kph. It's frugal, too. It only took half a tank to travel 386 kilometers.

Tessa: Let's just say, for the moment, that I didn't run out of cash with this one. Aside from that, I noticed its maneuverability at both low and high speeds.

Raymond: You may feel the power steering is a bit heavy. Actually, it is well-weighted, providing ample driver feedback and producing vice-free handling. At faster speeds it tightens up just enough to provide just the correct level of response.

Peddie: Let's try it up Calauan. If it can drive up this hill without hesitation. *bilib na talaga ako* (I'm convinced).

Cabin comfort

Tessa: Both seats are firm and feel a little uncomfortable at first. Just a little confused with how it should be adjusted (well, again, that's what manuals are for). But they seem to be well-designed, providing ample support on long trips. I expect to hear no complaints about roominess.

Raymond: Vision for the front and sides is excellent but the huge head restraints constrict rear vision.

Peddie: *Pero ang laki naman ng* side mirrors. Power *ba ito* (The side mirrors are huge, are they powered)?

Raymond: Yes. Power everything. It has a lot of pockets and storage space

Tessa: Yup, I wish there were more cupholders. Actually, I was expecting more. There's two in front, one in the middle and two at the back, if I remember it right.

Peddie: OK *lang kung kaunti ang* cupholders, *basta maganda manakbo.*

Raymond: *Hataw* to that.

In conclusion

Mercedes-Benz distinguishes between the sluggish Korean-born MB100 and the Vito. And if performance alone was the basis, we'd say the Vito L is well worth the P1.6 million price tag.

The Vito L gets an **8 out of 10 total points.** A standing ovation for the gutsy engine, smooth gearbox and overall mechanical refinement right down to the suspension subframes and bolts. Ho-hum for the basic interior and general lack of cabin sophistication, as well as the steel rims and plastic hubcaps outside.

But remember these are not real faults when you look at the overall picture. Compared with the offerings from the competition, the Vito is still a package that is unlikely to dissatisfy.

Thanks to Peddie Agoncillo of PLDT, Sta. Cruz, Laguna and to our "I'd rather be anonymous" Vito owner from Alabang. Their comments proved more than useful. Both of them experienced van owners having owned two vans in the last five years.

Sleepy drivers should keep off the road

By CHARLES E. BUBAN

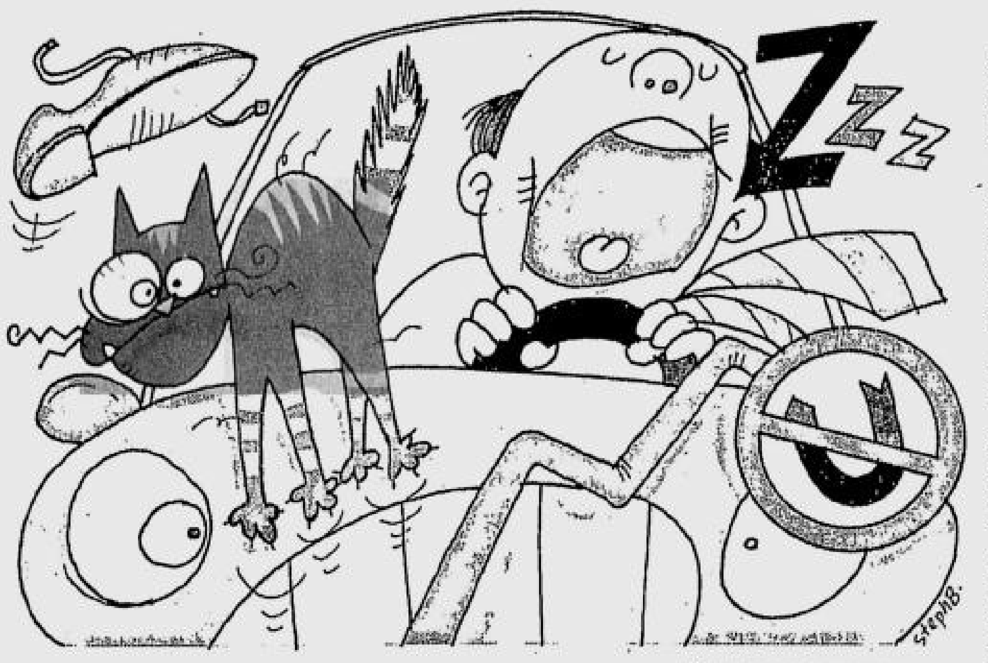

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MOST people know how dangerous drinking and driving is—driving drowsy can be just as hazardous as driving drunk. It would seem odd for anyone to mix sleeping with driving. Yet, it is a known fact that more and more vehicle accidents are being attributed to motorists who just fell asleep or lost concentration momentarily.

The British Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine came out with a recent survey indicating that people who drive after being awake for 17 to 19 hours performed worse than those with a blood alcohol level of .05 percent—the legal limit for drunk driving in most European countries. The same study indicates that up to 60 percent of all road accidents involve sleep-deprived motorists.

Sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness and impairs judgment, just like those who took alcohol or drugs. Most motorists in the highway experience this condition at some point, often without being aware of the event, creating potentially dangerous situations like when the motorist fails to see the flashing red signal light or notice that the road has taken a curve.

Such condition experienced by sleep-deprived motorists is called microsleep, defined as brief, unintended episodes of loss of attention associated with events such as blank stare, head snapping, prolonged eye closure, etc.

Microsleeps are common among fatigued or sleep-deprived people doing monotonous tasks like driving a car on a long stretch of highway or watching a boring TV show. Microsleep episodes can last around four to five seconds—short yet sufficient enough to get you or someone killed.

Law vs sleep-deprived driving?

The same study also said that up to 60 percent of road accidents involve sleep deprivation. The researchers involved even suggested that countries with drunk driving laws should also consider similar restrictions against sleep-deprived driving since they pose "a very serious risk."

Each year, according to World Health Organization data, more than 1 million people are killed in road crashes throughout the world, 20 million are injured, 2 million of whom will remain disabled or crippled for life. In the same UN study, it also reported that among youths, "traffic injuries" is the leading injury-related cause of death.

Here, the Philippine National Police annual report for last year recorded 13,158 traffic accidents involving 4,510 persons, of which 807 were killed, 1,447 seriously injured, and 2,256 slightly injured. Who knows how many of these accidents were caused by sleep-deprived motorists.

The American AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety came out with danger signals for drowsy motorists. If you experience any of these danger signs, take them as a warning that you could fall asleep without meaning to:

- Your eyes close or go out of focus by themselves.
- You have trouble keeping your head up.
- You can't stop yawning.
- You have wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- You don't remember driving the last few kilometers.
- You drift between lanes, tailgate, or miss traffic signs.
- You keep jerking the car back into the lane.
- You have drifted off the road and narrowly missed crashing.

If you have even one of these symptoms, you may be endangering yourself and your companion. Several taxi drivers interviewed on this matter suggest one simple advice: pull off the road, roll up the windows and take a nap—just make sure the place you parked in is safe from holdup men.

Long distance driving

Driving for long distances is especially taxing. It reveals your true grit against getting sleepy. At the start the motorist may feel alert, but the level wears off once the trip is underway and that is where the danger comes in.

The American AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety also gave the following suggestions for drivers facing the long haul:

- Start any trip by getting enough sleep the night before. Plan to drive during times of day when you are normally awake, and stay overnight rather than traveling straight through.
- Avoid driving during your body's "down time" (time of day or night when you're supposed to be sleeping or resting). Take a mid-afternoon break and find a place to sleep between midnight and 6 a.m.
- Talk with your passenger if you have someone else in the car. A passenger can also let you know when you are showing signs of sleepiness. If your passenger thinks you are getting sleepy, let someone else drive or pull over and sleep. A nap could save your life and the life of others.
- Make sure both people in the front of the car are awake. A driver who needs rest should go to the back seat, buckle up and sleep.
- Schedule a break every two hours or every 150 kilometers. Stop sooner if you show any danger signs of sleepiness. During your break take a nap, stretch, take a walk and get some exercise before getting back into the car.

The only safe driver is an alert driver. Even the safest drivers become confused and use poor judgment when they are sleepy. A drowsy driver doesn't process information as fast or as accurately as an alert driver and is unable to react quickly enough to avoid a collision.

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Civic's high fuel efficiency bared

TWENTY-FIVE new Civic 1.6 VTi and VTi-S were driven by their proud owners on Oct. 6 from Petron-San Pedro to the Mt. Malarayat Golf Club, some 55 kilometers away, to test the fuel-efficiency of the newly introduced VTEC3 engines. The event, dubbed Civic Eco-Challenge and joined by 19 journalists from the tri-media, yielded an astonishing fuel mileage for the new Honda Civic.

After the customary registration and welcome ceremonies at the showroom of Honda Cars Makati in Magallanes, all participants staged a motorcade to Petron San Pedro for the official flag-off by officials of Honda and Petron. With a full tank of Petron Blaze 97 percent octane gasoline, participants were flagged-off one by one. To eliminate allegations of tampering, the engine hood, trunk and gas tank were sealed by Honda officials in the presence of an Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly Philippine Motor Association) representative.

Guided by the Eco-Challenge roadbook, the participants motored to Lipa City, applying all legally possible fuel-economizing techniques given the night before at the event-orientation meeting. Upon reaching the Petron gasoline station in Lipa City, the amount of gasoline consumed from the starting point was measured for each participant. The AAP representative was on hand to attest to the results.

Trophies and prizes awaited the participants at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, which hosted the awarding ceremonies. Customer Ed Alcaraz registered the best fuel mileage of 41.91 kilometers per liter, driving a Civic 1.6 Vti with manual transmission. While Jun Peña posted 21.65 km/li fuel mileage in his Civic 1.6 Vti with automatic transmission.

The living legend of Philippine motorsports, however, stole the limelight by registering a jaw-dropping 49.68 km/li, literally consuming just a few milliliters over a liter of Petron Blaze during the trip. Pocholo Ramirez successfully achieved a seemingly unbelievable feat using smooth acceleration and a maximum rev of 3,000 rpm. He further stressed that his record could not have been achieved without Honda's excellent VTEC3 engine, powered by Petron Blaze.

Honda fielded two Civic Vti, both with manual transmission, as official competition cars to set Honda's official fuel consumption. One car is equipped with a fuel meter that accurately measures fuel consumption to the last drop, at a fixed distance. A representative from the AAP drove one of the units under "normal driving conditions" (i.e. with aircon, average speed 70-90 km per hour). The fuel consumption record is 21.73 km/li for the unit with fuel meter and 24.97 km/li for the other unit without fuel meter, as verified by the AAP official.

The Civic Eco-Challenge fuel-efficiency driving competition for Civic customers is sponsored by Petron Blaze in cooperation with Motolite auto batteries and Nestlé Philippines Inc.

Crosswind now with mobile theater system

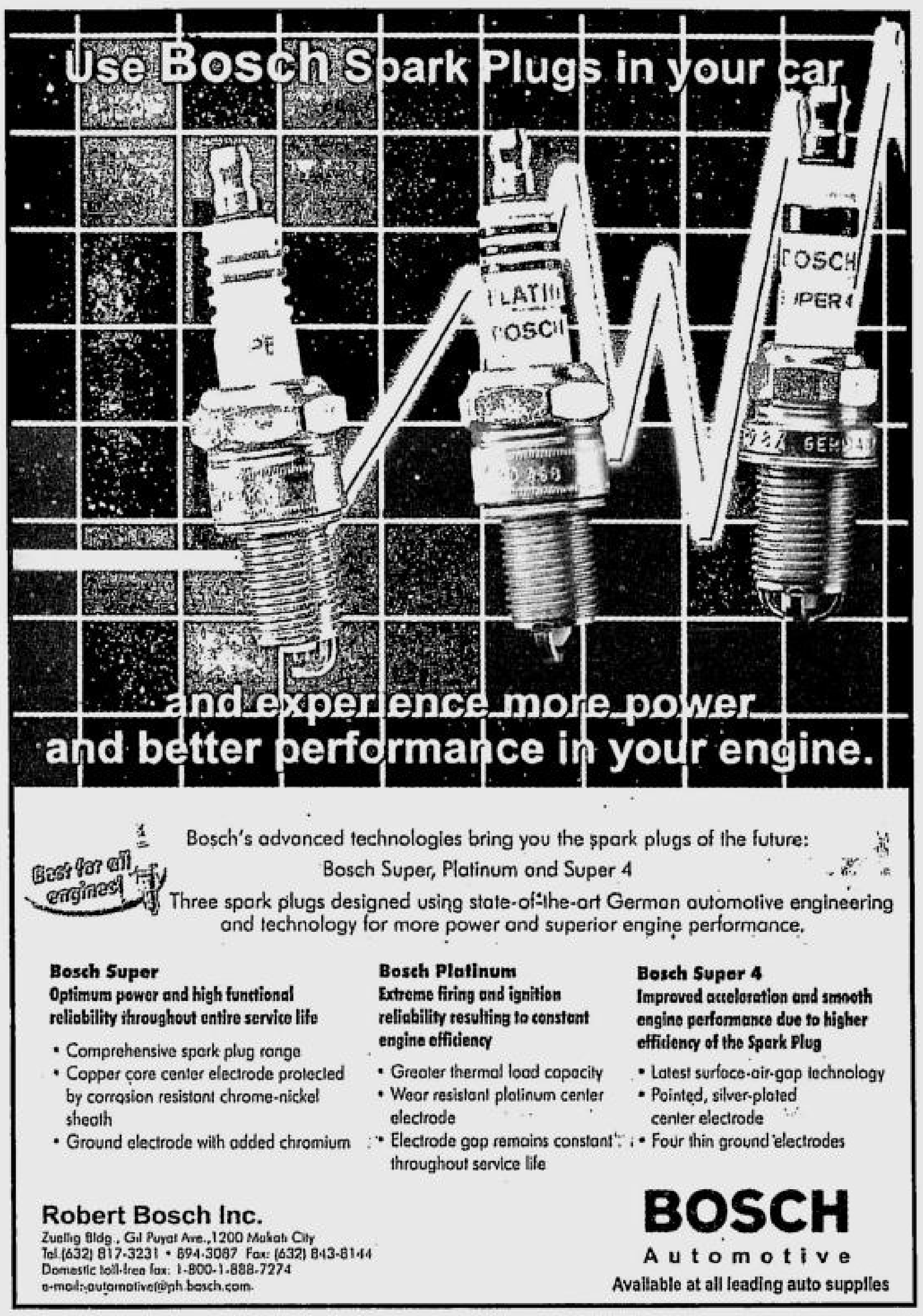
TRANSFORMING a routine drive to a pleasurable family experience, the country's diesel technology authority Isuzu Philippines Corp. presents its Friday Night at the Movies gimmick for all Crosswind XTO buyers.

Until Oct. 31, Isuzu will be giving out a Pioneer CD/DVD player, a NECVOX high resolution LCD monitor and a sporty rear spoiler (with third brake lamp) with the new Isuzu Crosswind XTO Automatic. For the Crosswind XTO Manual on the other hand, buyers also get a rear spoiler at no extra cost.

Isuzu's Friday Night at the Movies grabber lets motorists enjoy a jumble of big screen hits even in traffic. Whether it's a sci-fi, romance, thriller or adventure movie, Isuzu treats the whole family with first-class entertainment. This is a big plus to the driving comfort and convenience of an automatic transmission in the Crosswind model.

Automatic transmission greatly minimizes driving stress during heavy stop-and-go traffic situations. A practical choice for the city-driving motorist, the Crosswind XTO Automatic is the first and only 4-speed automatic transmission-equipped, direct injection turbo diesel engine vehicle in its class.

Boosted with a low-charged turbocharger (using smaller sized turbine and compressor), the Crosswind XTO A/T guarantees ease of an automatic transmission without the penalty of excessive fuel consumption of an automatic-equipped gasoline engine.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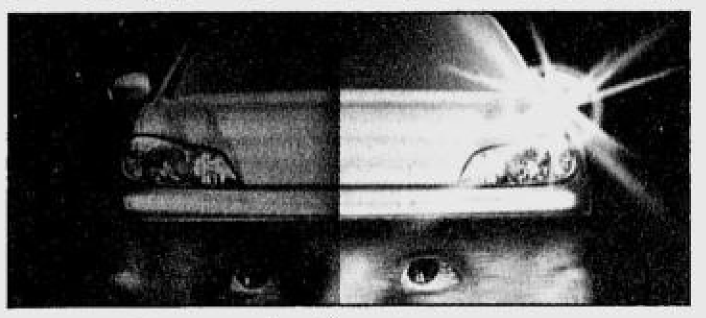
MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

DON'T BE DULL!



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BIOTERROR SCARE OR NOT

Motorists, beware!

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

EXPECT the Filipinos to continue their extended love affair with the holidays, despite the global uncertainties being created by a conflict half a world away.

It's not even All Saints' or All Souls' Day yet, but the rush to Christmas has seemingly heightened, if you believe the people running Metro Manila's main entry and exit points. The volume of vehicles using the North and South Luzon Tollways has increased by 2 percent. And that, these officials say, is enough to make a conclusion.

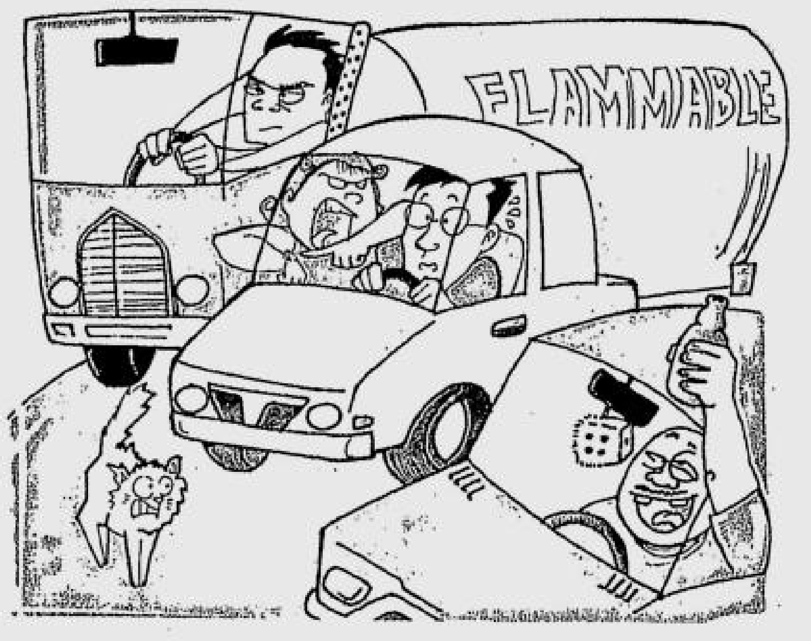

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A 2-percent increase in the 240,000 vehicles using the South Luzon Tollways and the Skyway daily would mean nearly 5,000 more vehicles. The increase in the 170,000 vehicles plying the North Luzon Tollways every day could spell the same thing.

For expressway and land transport officials, that is a good indicator of increased economic activity. If they can draw another conclusion from it, this would mean Filipinos are hardly affected by this bioterrorism scare.

Nevertheless, motorists are advised to keep their eyes peeled and their other senses keen. As they say, not all misfortunes can be blamed on Osama bin Laden. To help motorists maintain discipline—on the expressways, at least—600 deputized agents are manning the highways, keeping their eyes peeled and their other senses keen. And technology will help, what with the speed guns, the watchtowers and the added patrol vehicles.

In anticipation of the holiday rush, the Land Transportation Authority is on the lookout for overloaded trucks, which most likely would be rushing business deliveries to meet the season's demands. This would include six-wheeler trucks passing themselves off as four-wheelers, to avoid the truck ban.

Six to four

The LTO admits, though, that it has no hard data on the number of six-wheelers that have been converted to four, or on accidents involving these trucks. Nevertheless, LTO officials say this type of truck is high on their "wanted" list.

"We are foreseeing more of it since businesses need to hurry up for the delivery. This type of truck may or may not meet an accident, but the probability of them meeting an accident—either self-inflicted or not—is high, and is increased 10 times more," explains LTO traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo.

Jacobo also observed that during the holidays people and families are in a hurry to go on trips and that they tend to ignore necessary pretrip inspections.

Stay away from tankers

It doesn't take a terrorist to start a mini-chemical attack on a populated area. All it needs, in theory, is a container truck filled with hazardous or flammable materials, and a stupid or careless motorist.

Safety measures involving tanker trucks carrying flammable or hazardous chemicals start with the port of entries such as the Bureau of Customs and the oil companies that own fuel tankers. But it doesn't have to end there.

Jacobo says, don't attempt to spoil your holidays by tailgating these tankers. You may be in a position to kill yourself and other motorists and countless other innocent pedestrians in the process. Stay away from these "time bombs waiting to explode." An exploding tanker can affect a 500-meter radius.

Last March 19, a 10-wheeler crude oil tanker truck owned by the DP Freight Services caught fire along Coastal Road, Parañaque City, plowed through four passenger jeeps and ran over bystanders. Fourteen people died.

Every year, lives are being put unnecessarily at risk in the midst of merrymaking. Drunk driving now accounts for 475 accidents, far higher than the 147 recorded drunk driving accidents in 1999 and the 96 reported accidents in 1998. For motorists, perhaps the best gift to your loved ones this holiday season is to come home in one piece.

Safe, vigilant trip

The law enforcers can't do it all. Jacobo stresses it is also the citizenry's duty to report suspicious-looking individuals or convoys.

There are hotlines where motorists can report anomalies on the road. One can call up the LTO Assistant Secretary's office at 921-9071 for public assistance.

The 24-hour traffic operation center's number is 922-9061 local 277. Expect fast-responding police officers assigned by Gen. Edgardo Abenina for emergency situations.

"Tap these existing resources. These have been here for a long time. All you need is to call," Jacobo says.

Keep the traffic flowing. Do not crowd intersections. Keep intersections open to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles. Keep to your lanes.

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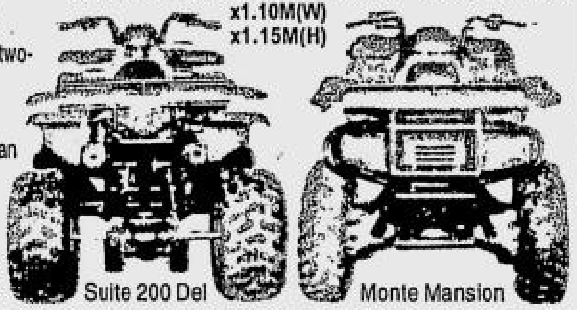

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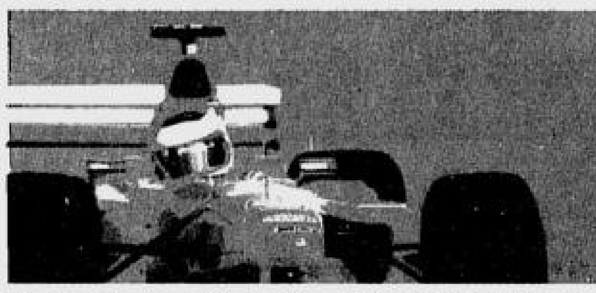


The Circuit

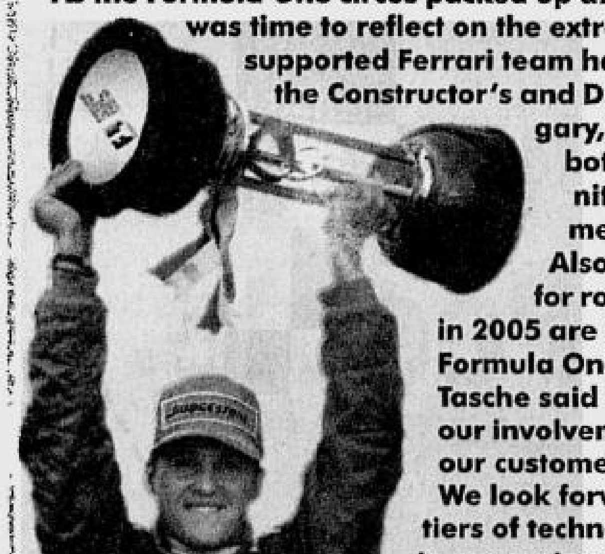
Schumi Caps Season with Record Breaking Win

A perfect end to the season for four times World Champion and reigning World Champion Michael Schumacher. After securing pole position with one of the most spectacular laps ever witnessed in qualifying, a best time of 1.32.484, seven tenths better than second place man Juan Pablo Montoya, and a stunning display of perfect driving through the notoriously difficult 'Esses', Michael Schumacher dominated the race.

Schumacher had an 8 second lead over the rest of the field by lap 8 with team mate Rubens Barrichello 3rd behind BMW Williams driver Juan Pablo Montoya. The strategy had been for Schumacher to help Barrichello win the race and come second in the World Championship, but as Schumacher said "It wasn't possible as Rubens was third and so there was no point in sacrificing my own race." This was the only disappointment in an otherwise near perfect season.

World Champion Michael Schumacher broke another record this weekend, as he now has a total of 801 points against Alain Prost's record of 798.5. He also equalled Alain Prost's record of nine wins in a season.

As the Formula One circus packed up at Suzuka for the winter break, it was time to reflect on the extraordinary season that the Shell supported Ferrari team have had this year. Winning both the Constructor's and Driver's Championships in Hungary, four races before the end, gave both Ferrari and Shell the opportunity to work towards new developments for the 2002 season.



Also, the strict EU regulations on fuel for road cars which will come into force in 2005 are already being implemented in Formula One. As Shell Track Manager Tobias Tasche said "The knowledge we gain from our involvement with Ferrari directly benefits our customers at the 45,000 Shell stations. We look forward to pushing back the frontiers of technology to bring further benefits to our customers."

After the race Michael Schumacher said "This was the perfect end to the season, because winning the final race is just what you need before the long winter break. It has been a successful season for us, and for that we have to thank the team and our partners like Shell. I look forward to continuing the battle next year."

Witness heart-pounding race action! Attend Local Racing Events held on various dates and venues. Please refer to the schedule on the sidebar. (W.I.N.)

2001 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

(After 17 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	123
COULTHARD	65
BARRICHELLO	56
R. SCHUMACHER	49
HAKKINEN	37
MONTOYA	31

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	179
MCLAREN	102
WILLIAMS	80
SAUBER	22
BAR	17
JORDAN	17

LOCAL RACING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
FORMULA RACES BRC Formula Speedway	Oct 21
SHELL SLALOMS SERIES Makro, Imus	Oct 21
DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Nov 3
SHELL SLALOMS SERIES Ynares Center, Antipolo	Nov 25

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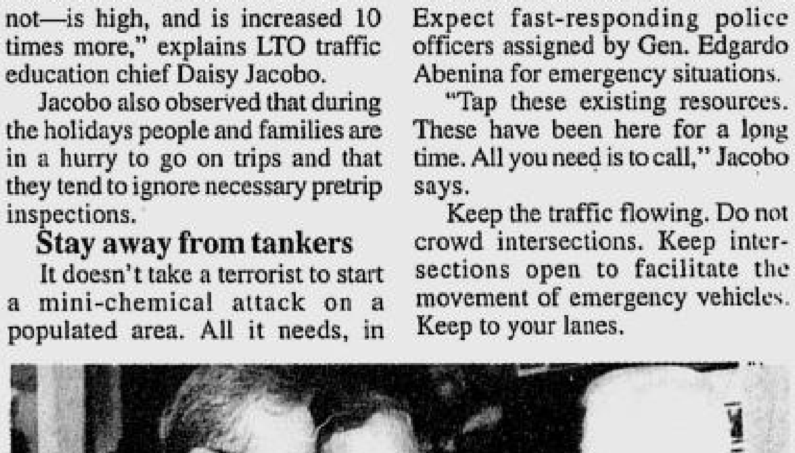

NORIO Matsumura, Richard L. Lee and Jose Cuisia

UMC, Nissan mark 30 years of partnership

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. recently hosted a bash in celebration of its 30th year of partnership with Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan.

Held Sept. 26 at the Enterprise Center, the lavish cocktail ceremony was attended by more than 400 guests—mostly VIPs and friends in the government and various industries who have generously supported UMC throughout the years.

Senate president Franklin Drilon was the guest of honor and keynote speaker. He was accompanied by his wife, Milagros.

UMC president Richard L. Lee gave a very encouraging welcome address and senior vice president Elizabeth H. Lee was the emcee for the night.

Norio Matsumura, executive vice president, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan, and UMC chair Wigberto Tañada were likewise on hand to welcome guests who included National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Fernando Zobel and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., Jose Cuisia and SGV chair Cesar Purisima.

Held simultaneously was a photo exhibit covering the UMC growth throughout the years. A sumptuous buffet was provided by Via Mare while guests were serenaded by a string quartet with soothing music.

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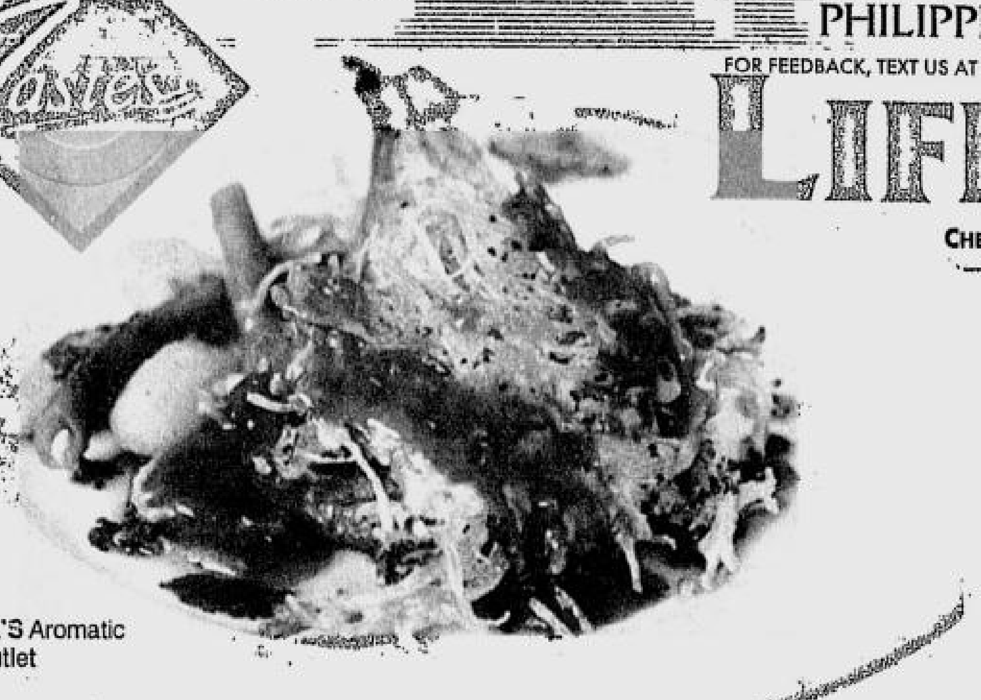
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

A new take on public eating, Mingoy's is unique in concept and configuration. It's run by a family, the menu has a solid Spanish base and the food prices are low


BIANCA'S Aromatic Lamb Cutlet

C'mon baby, let's do the twist

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

IT'S not the dance, but a new restaurant barely two months old, which is already gaining a happy band of patrons: yuppies, family groups and teenagers. Twist at Mingoy's is its full name (Eastwood City Walk, 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. [Libis], Bagumbayan, QC; tels. 421-1822 to 23: fax 421-1825; e-mail twistmingoys@edsamail.com.ph), and it is indeed a twist, being unique in concept and configuration.

It is, first of all, run by a family—represented by 21 stars on the menu cover: a grandmother, Nelly V. Katigbak, now gone, the start of it all; her daughters and son-in-law, and her grandchildren. All are actively involved in supervision, public relations and in the case of the grandchildren, in giving names and tastes to the menu. "I want to be a fish [dish]," said one. "I've wanted to be a fish longer than you have," countered another. Thus, there are entrees like Christine's Herbal Salmon Provencal (the chef's award-winning pan-fried salmon fillet with fresh herbs and tomato coulis), Tinton's Tuna Tail, a box-office favorite; Hermie's Fisherman's Catch (*lapu-lapu* fillet pan-roasted, with a shrimp, caper and white wine sauce); and Quito's Spicy Chorizo Tidbits (spicy homemade *chorizo* bits pan-fried in olive oil and served with garlic rice and pickled radish), a grandmother's recipe. Quito Jose is the grandchild who grew up into a chef, and is responsible for Mingoy's, for the idea of Twist and for Brother's Burgers, which is where he busies himself.

Secondly, the menu has a solid Spanish base, because the family also owns Mingoy's (Meralco Avenue and Pasay Road), and offers the all-time favorites of that well-known institution: Sambas al Ajillo, Sopa de Ajo, Bacalao à la Vizcaina, Lengua con Setas, Callos Madrilena, Salpicao, Rabo de Toro Estofado and Langostas con Ajo. Also six kinds of *paella:* Española (*chorizo*, chicken, seafood), con Setas (mushrooms and seafood), con Carne (salpicao, chicken and *chorizo*), Marinera (seafood assortment), Legumbres (vegetarian) and con Chipirrones (squid ink and fresh seafood).

Thirdly, the crew of family planners set out with a clear plan: to keep prices low, so that Twist food would be accessible to employees working in this burgeoning new area, as well as to the young and younger patrons. There are appetizers like Republic Smoked Bangus—a delightful salad of smoked *bangus* cubes, potatoes and lettuce tossed in mustard seed and horseradish dressing (P95), and Tortilla de Patata Especial, the *tapa* bar staple in Spain (P60), great for any time of the day. Soups are at P45 and P50: Sopa de la Mancha—creamy, with bits of ham, bacon and *chorizo*; Eurasian Dumpling Soup—coriander dumplings in chicken consomme. The Fried Cheese (*kesong puti*) salad with lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and sesame oil dressing is priced at P55.

Voices of family involvement

Pasta dishes allow a choice of spaghetti, linguine, fettucine or penne, and of the following sauces: Mama Mia!—tomatoes, *chorizo*, ham and mushrooms; Papa's Seafood Carbonara—shrimps, mussels and squid in white wine and egg yolk cream sauce; and Classic Capri-roasted tomatoes, garlic, chili flakes, broccoli, anchovies and squid.

The entrées are the voices of family involvement, each bearing the name of a

C'MON/ p.C2

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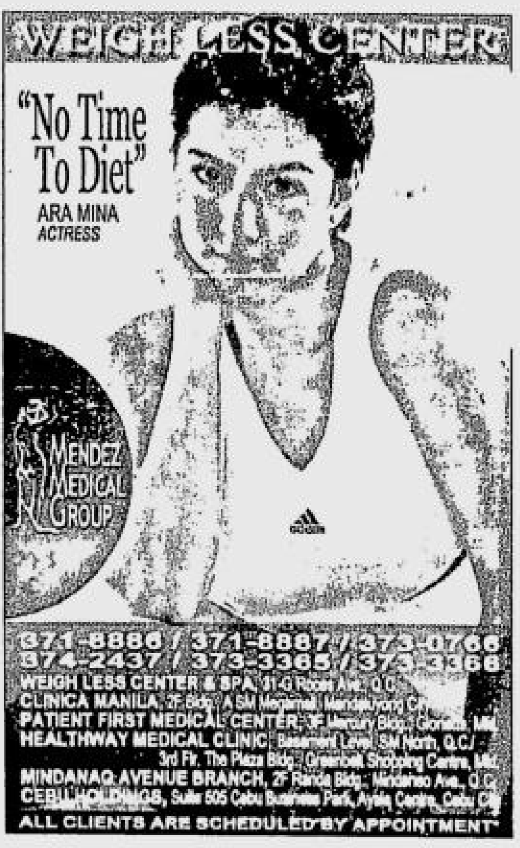
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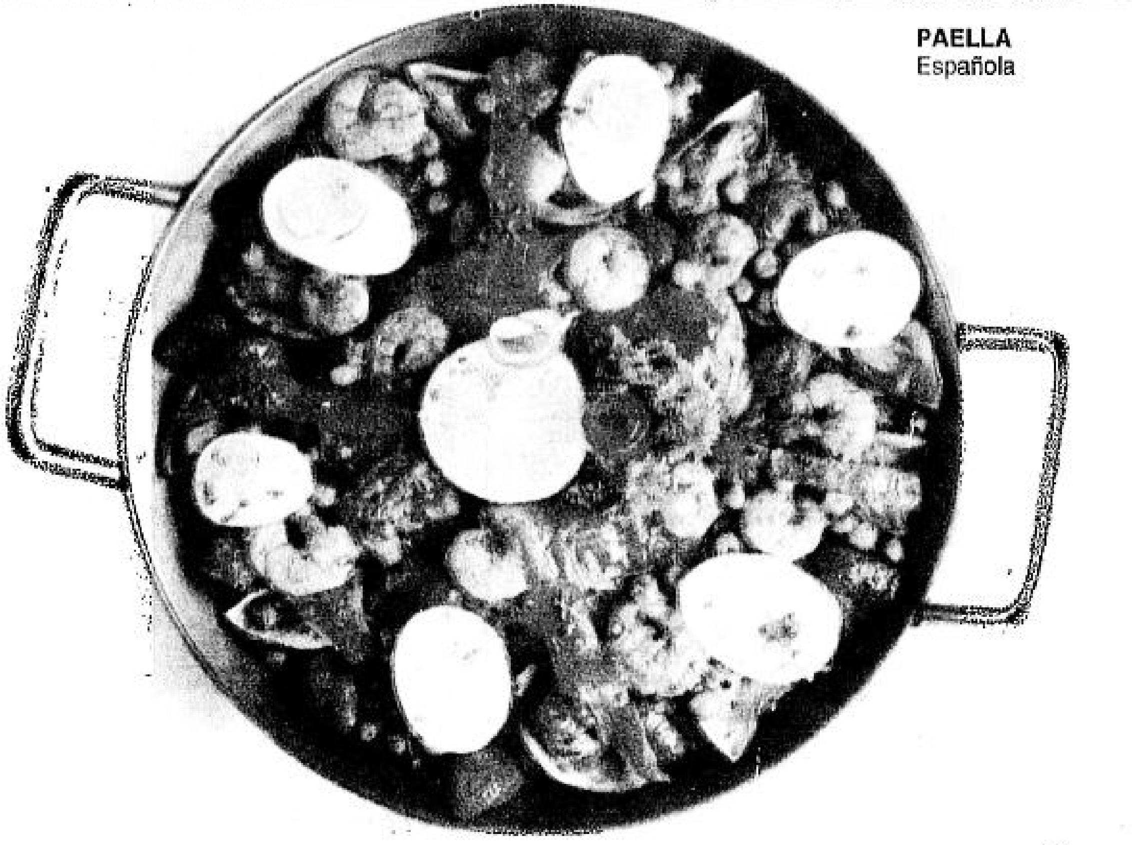
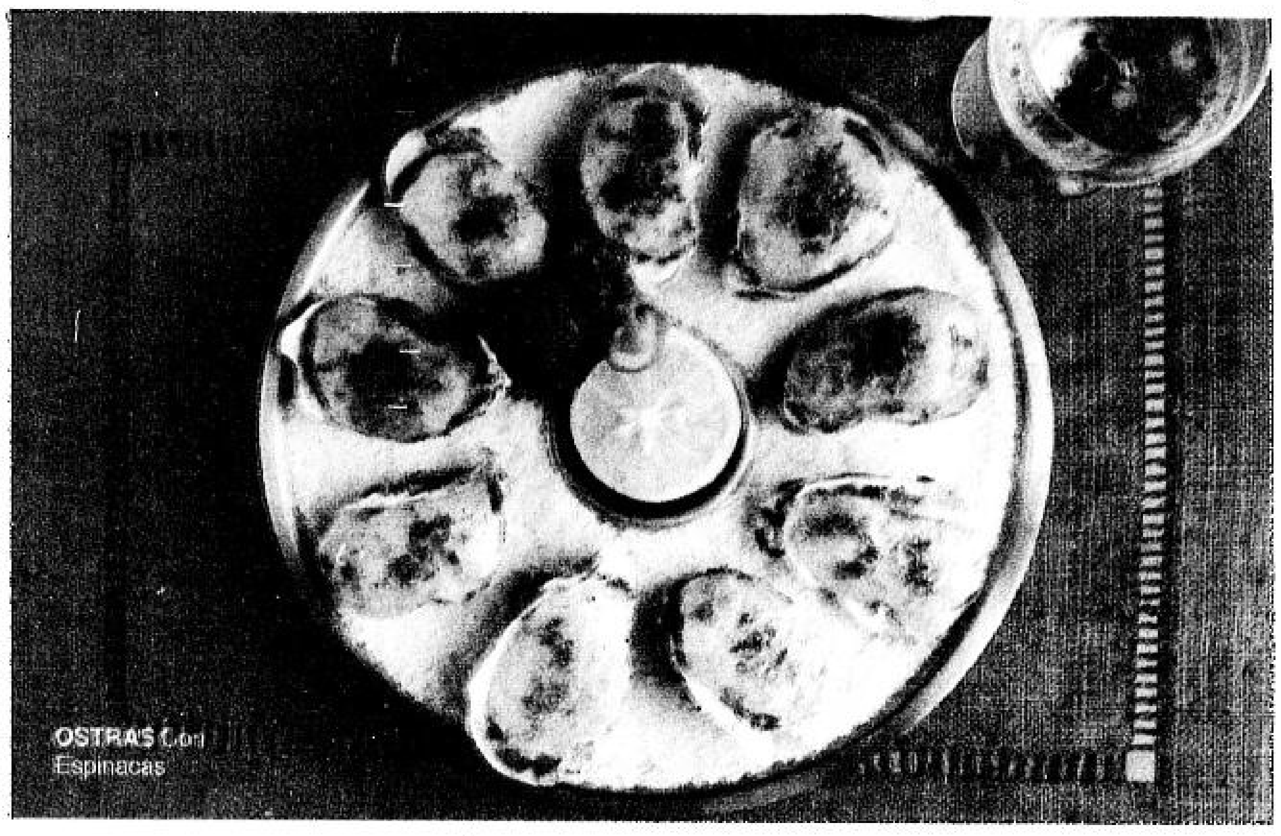


PAELLA
Española



OSTRA'S Con
Espinacas

C'mon baby, let's do the twist

(From page C1)

Katigbak grandchild, each designed by the chef to reflect that child's personality and tastes. And believe me, they do. We were there on Rory Cojuangco Lagdameo's birthday, and since two of the grandchildren are hers by son Ernest, we tasted, and recognized their dishes as fitting and proper.

Martin's Beef al Basco is one of the most popular Twist entrées—charbroiled beef with horseradish sauce. Oh, that's Martin all right, Rory and I agreed. And sweet Bianca, his sister, is immortalized in Bianca's Aromatic Lamb Cutlet pan-fried in potato crust, with sweet chili and rosemary jus. Lamb is her grandfather Tito Lagdameo's all-time favorite, and its ancestry is showing.

This is not, however, an amateur *tayo-tayo* restaurant, because the family believes in working with food professionals. The executive chef is Demi Macasalabang, who trained at Soleil, and has had international experience. Training and the conceptualization-to-opening process are the domain of Danny B. Marantal, operations manager. He started out, he tells us, as a busboy at the Mandarin Hotel, and in his 12 years there worked at L'Hirondelle, then opened the food and beverage operations in three hotels in China; at the New World Hotel, the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao and Shangri-La Makati, before Twist at Mingoys. Company president is Nina K. Garcia, whose daughter Christine Marie writes the publicity material. And of course, there is chef Quito Jose, the overall taste-maker, who contributes his genes as well his professional training.

It is a twist indeed, a new take on public eating. I plan to return, to try some dishes I was interested in but could not taste that day, and to watch the trees grow and make the Eastwood City walk as pleasant at noon as it already is in the evenings.

American restaurant adopts new name, new look

RIBS, formerly Tony Roma's, had its soft reopening on Oct. 10 at the Glorietta 4, Ayala Center with a spanking new look to boot. With easy access to hotels, a private apartment and a shopping mall, the restaurant expects to draw regular guests, residents, shoppers and office workers.

The new restaurant veers away from the conventional dark wood in the previous Tony Roma's restaurant. Light-colored maple wood veneers, plush carpets and eye-catching murals depicting several American landmarks give the place a touch of warmth and sophistication.

The tables and chairs continue the maple wood theme of the restaurant. Occupying two levels, the restaurant has an area of 473 sq m with seating capacity of 158 seats.

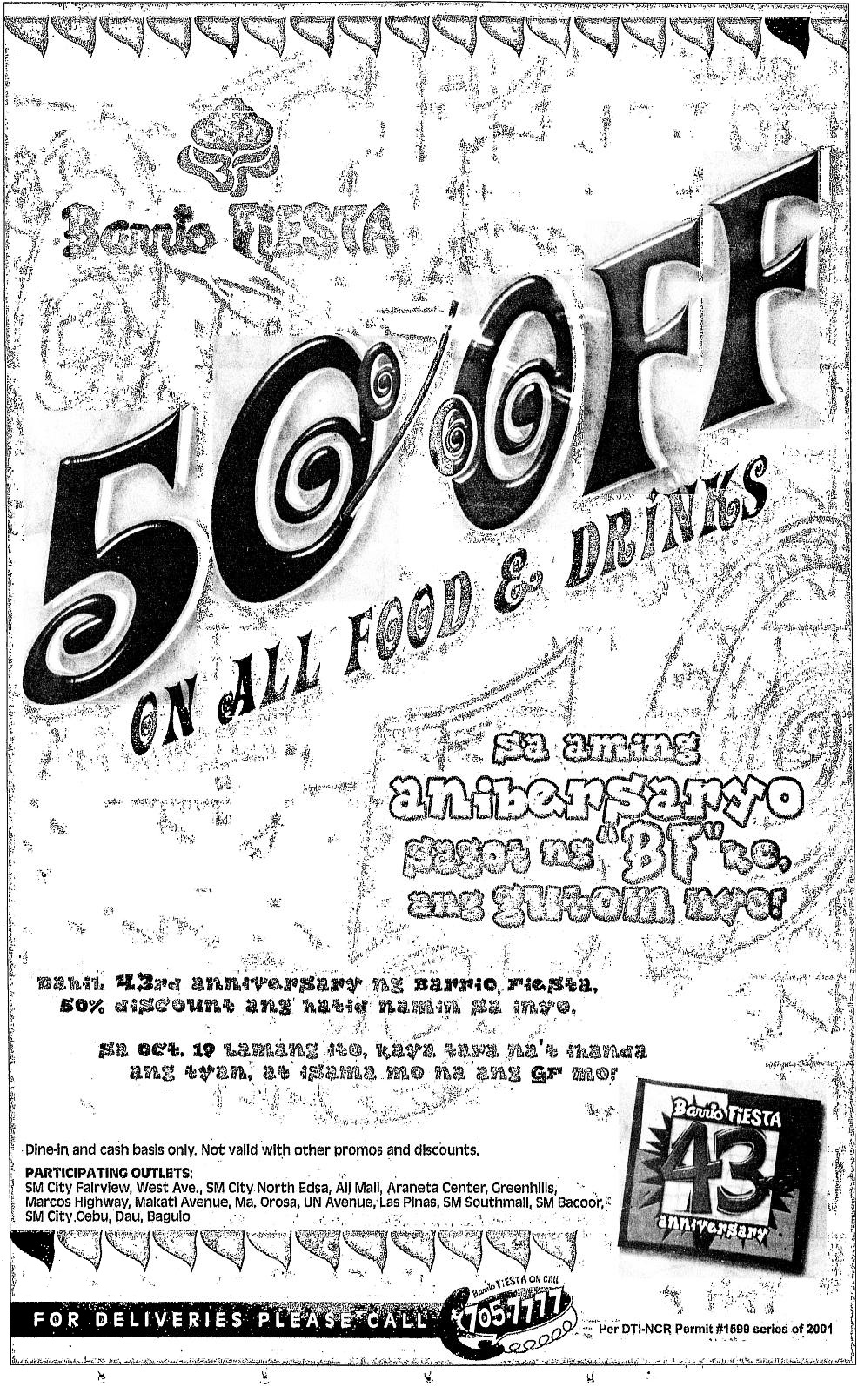
One thing that has not changed is the traditional American fanfare which continues to be served in epic proportions. The restaurant offers the widest range of ribs from tender, lean pork ribs cut from the choicest tenderloin to meaty beef spare ribs. The original baby back ribs basted with smoky Tony Roma's flavor and smothered with original barbecue sauce are reputed to be so tender the meat practically falls off the bone.

Apart from offering a variety of signature rib dishes, the restaurant also offers other specialty dishes—from appetizers such as potato skin, healthy salad, to legendary barbecue chicken, sizzling steaks and grilled seafood with hearty proportions. There is also a full bar that stocks American beer, cocktails and other mixes.

As part of its reopening celebration, Tony Roma's will be donating P1 to the Feed a Child Foundation for every entrée sold from Oct. 10 to Dec. 31. Feed a Child Foundation is a nonprofit organization which ensures malnourished children to eat at least one decent meal a day.

Feeding malnourished children will help them become more active and productive in school. In the Philippines, at least 46 percent of public elementary school pupils are malnourished. Through this partnership, Tony Roma's hopes to bring greater awareness among its diners and play an active role in helping malnourished children.

The reopening celebration organized by Tony Roma's will be held at Glorietta 4 Park on Oct. 19. Look out for activities that include wall climbing, live band performance, fashion show, rib eating contest, beer drinking contest and booths with games, food and drinks.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit #1599 series of 2001

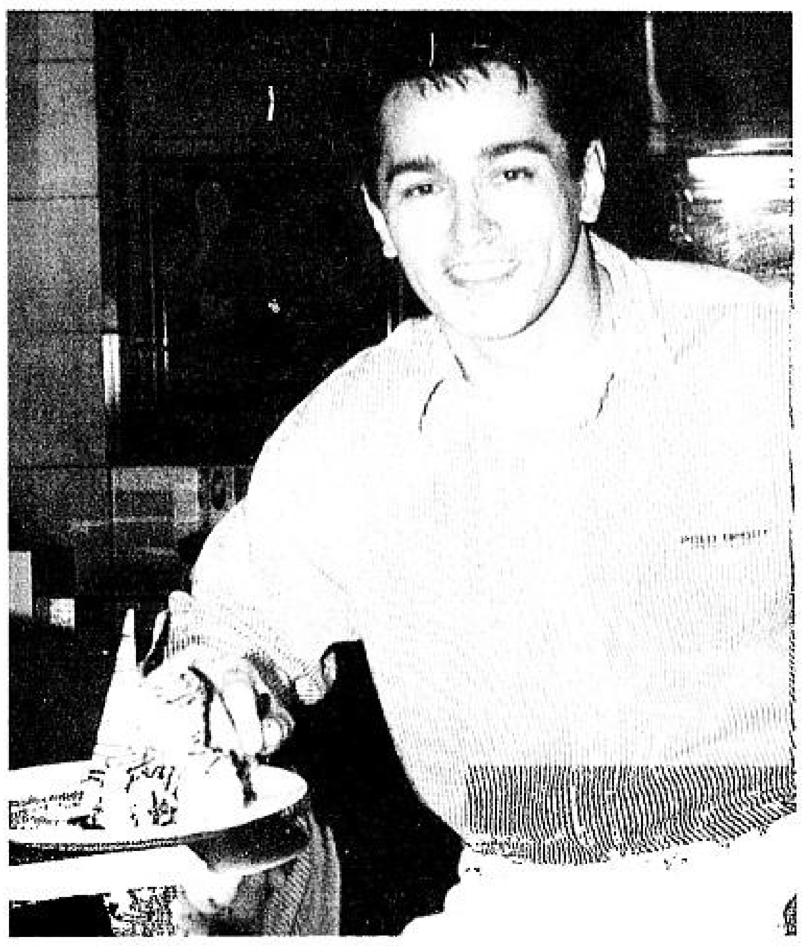
Ice cream for people on the go

WHAT do Vince Hizon and newlyweds Paolo and Suzette Abrera have in common? They all share an active and productive lifestyle and at the same time, crave for the delectable sweetness of Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

MBA basketball star and UAAP director Hizon claims, "If it ain't two scoops of Häagen-Dazs strawberry, it would be *durian* shake somewhere in a beach in Davao."

After all, what's important is that break and what they do with it. Enhancing other relationships is another alternative for the Abreras. "My ideal break is having coffee with a companion, particularly my wife or eating something sweet. If I can't have that, it would be hanging out with my friends," says Paolo. "I go out with my girl friends," Suzette adds.

A break that includes Häagen-Dazs becomes more than just a respite. It becomes an experience.



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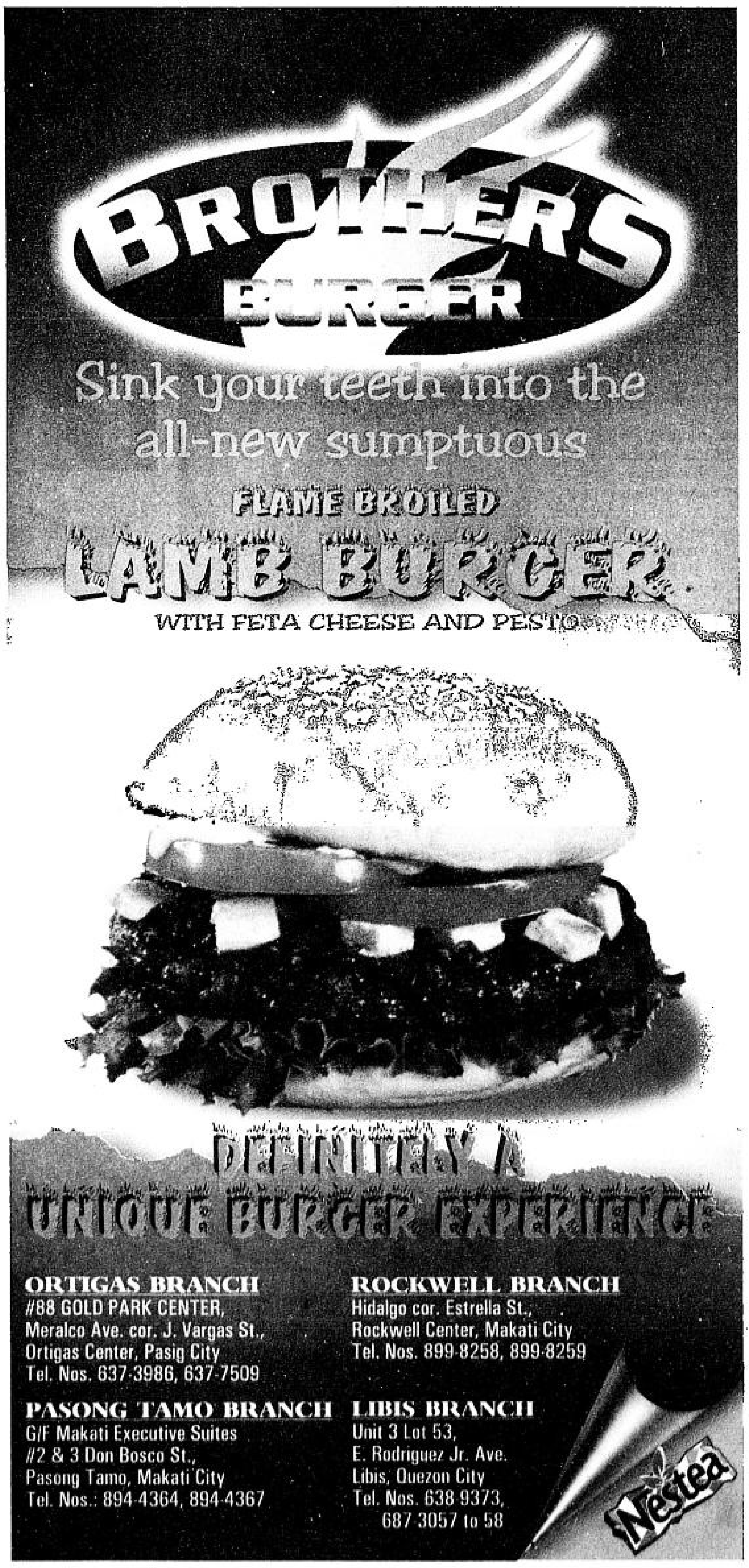
Night classes on restaurant operations

TODAY at 5-9 p.m., the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center opens its evening restaurant operations classes. Designed and intended for busy bodies who don't have time to squeeze in their cooking and baking classes into their hectic schedule, this nocturnal session promises a very rewarding evening for each participant. Course outline for this session includes kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory and other related knowledge in restaurant management. Proven techniques on profitable service operations will also be discussed plus free snacks for all enrolees.

An integrated workshop on waitering and bartending is being held until tomorrow, at 6-9 p.m. This includes creative technique for efficient table setting and attractive arrangements, napkin folding and skirting, suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests, use of magic words, order-taking; American, Russian and French-style of table setting standards, setting up service stations and checkpoints, serving beverage and entrée, bartending basics, cocktail mixing and garnishing and personality enhancement.

Join the baking bandwagon with the class on bakery and bakeshop operations up to tomorrow. The lessons are on the commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011, local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.



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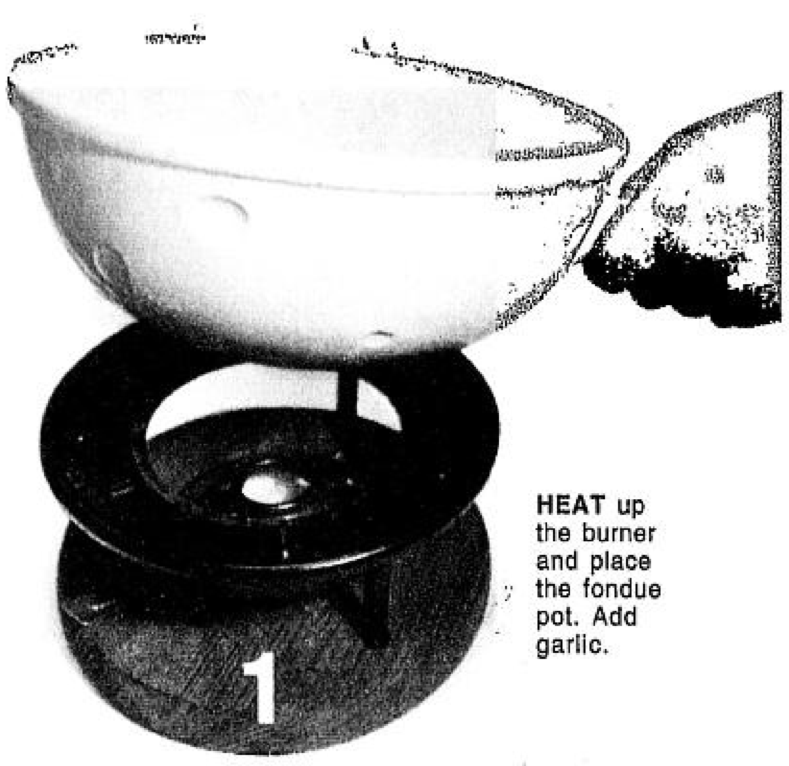
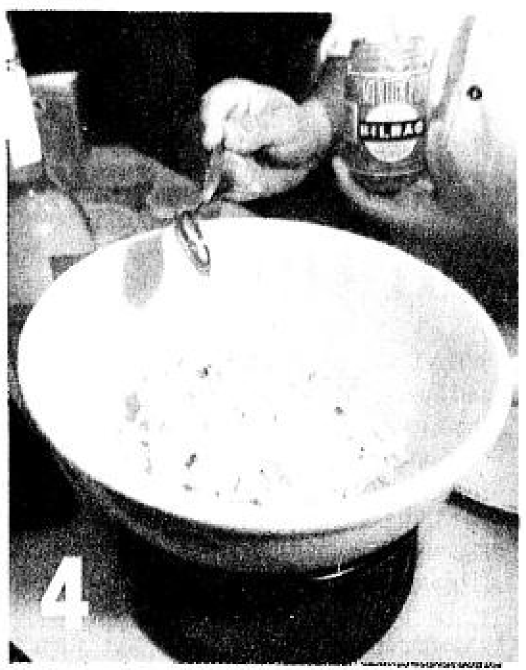

1
HEAT up the burner and place the fondue pot. Add garlic.

2
ADD Swiss cheese and salt.

3
STIR in aromat or MSG and nutmeg.


4
ADD paprika.

It's hip to dip

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

DO you want to pull off a fabulous party minus the fuss? Then holding a fondue party is the way to go.

Fondue party is a great style for intimate and easy entertaining. Preparation takes little to no time because guests can cook their own food and there's only one pot to clean.

You can choose from cheese fondue, chocolate fondue, beef fondue, seafood fondue and vegetable fondue.

"A fondue is a Swiss dish with hot sauce in which small pieces of food are cooked or dipped," explains China Bonzon, outlet manager of Old Swiss Inn which is popular for fondue specialties.

To start a feast, basic equipment like a small burner, fondue pots and fondue tongs are needed. These are readily available at local pots and pans stores. Fondue tongs are long and uniquely shaped forks or metal skewers used for dipping the food. For the fondue pots, enamel cast-iron pots are used. According to Bonzon, ceramic-coated or earthenware pots are recommended for cheese and chocolate fondues, while hotter fondues—those cooked in oil or broth—should be served in a metal fondue pot. If you don't have a fondue pot, use a regular chafing or casserole dish instead when heating a cheese fondue.

The procedure begins with heating the pot. Gently stir the cheese in the pot until it melts. Add cornstarch to protect the fondue from separating and curdling. Whisk cornstarch together with a bit of kirsch (a fragrant and unaged brandy) and stir the cheese continuously, taking care not to burn it.

You can dip just about anything into your cheese fondue. Aside from a selection of breads, you can serve it with fruits or chunks of veggies like broccoli and asparagus. Remember to keep the fire on low setting while serving your cheese fondue. To serve, spear bread with fondue fork and dip it into the pot. Swirl the fork around, making sure that you get to the bottom of the pot in order to enjoy the best flavor. But don't double dip!

Like the cheese sauce, fondue variations are endless. To put a sweet ending to your meal, try the Toblerone chocolate fondue. Trust me, it's the easiest dessert to make and the most sought-after at Old Swiss Inn. To make chocolate fondue, melt a 100-gram Toblerone, mix with whipping cream and serve with slices of banana, apple, grapes, mango, marshmallow and sponge cake for dipping.

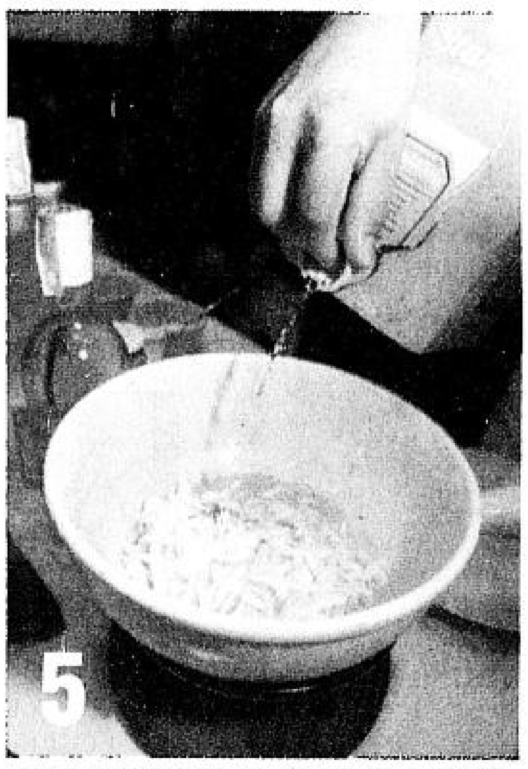
Here, sous chef Edwin Bolaños shows us the rudiments of making cheese and chocolate fondue.

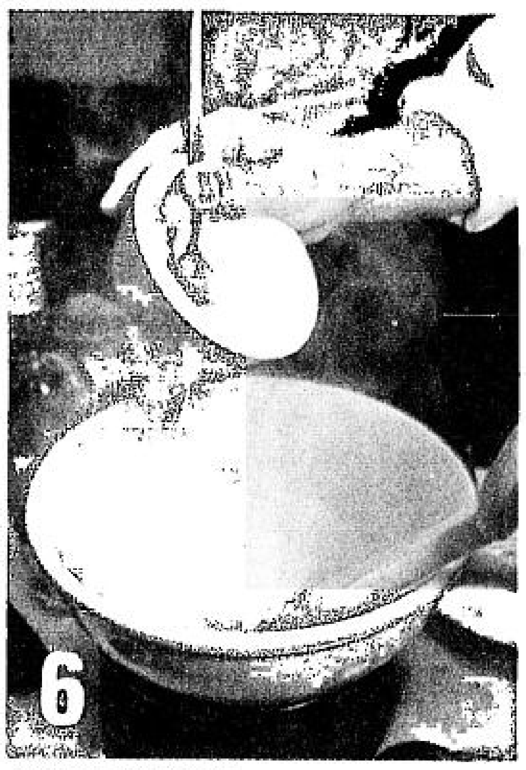
Old Swiss Inn is holding a month-long Fondue Smorgasbord this October in all of its branches at Olympia Towers on Makati Avenue, Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites in Paco, Manila and Bon Marche at Greenbelt Mall.

Ingredients:
2 tbsps minced garlic
100 g grated Swiss cheese
A dash of salt
2 tbsps cornstarch diluted in 2 tsps kirsch
A dash of nutmeg
A dash of paprika
1 c white wine
Fresh ground pepper
A dash of German aromat or monosodium glutamate
Italian or French bread cut into bite-size

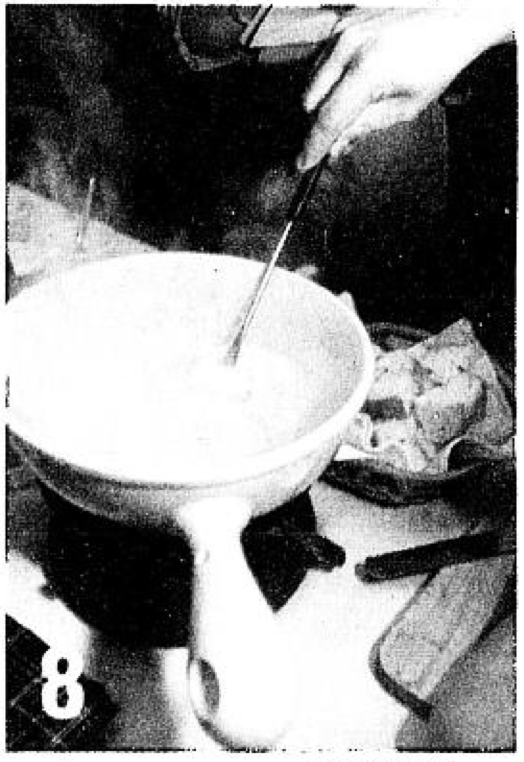
E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

STEP BY STEP


5
POUR white wine and stir vigorously until cheese melts and well-blended.


6
ADD the kirsch mix.

7
ADD freshly ground pepper.


8
TO SERVE fondue, spear bread with fondue fork and dip into the pot.

9
ENJOY cheese fondue with family and friends

Want a
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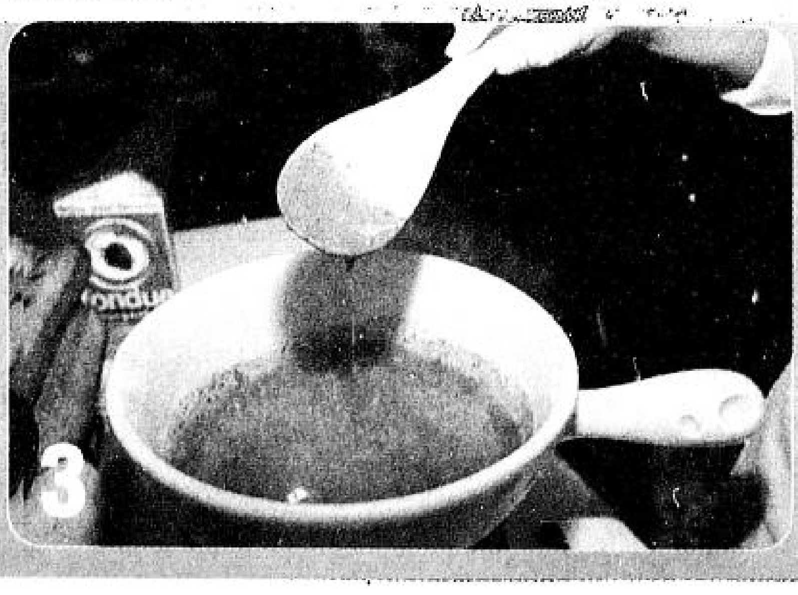
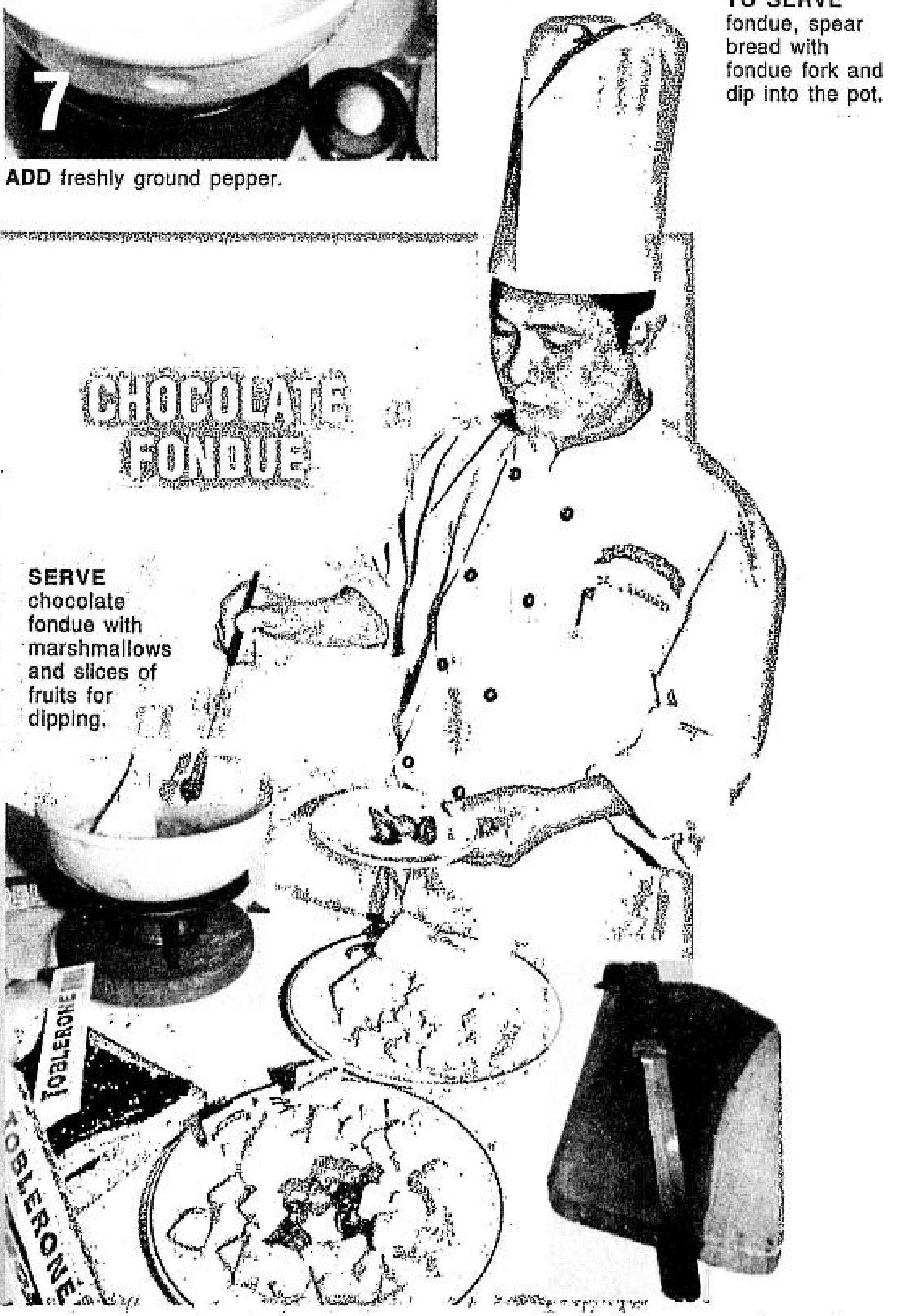
no-sweat
party?
Then the
fondue
party is
for you

CHOCOLATE FONDUE

1
HEAT fondue pot over low-heat fire and drop in a bar of Toblerone chocolate.

2
POUR 1 c of whipping cream.


3
MIX well until chocolate is smooth and melted (20-35 minutes). Be careful not to burn the chocolate.



SERVE chocolate fondue with marshmallows and slices of fruits for dipping.

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So grab a specially marked pack of Hunt's Tomato Sauce. Available at leading supermarkets and groceries in GMA. Promo runs until Nov. 31.

Kiddie shows and dinner concert highlight restaurant's 1st year

COUNTRY Waffles in Greenhills celebrates its first anniversary with activities for the whole month of October.

A performance of jugglers will be held on Oct. 21 and a special face-painting interactive session on Oct. 28. Country Waffles Greenhills will also host a grand Halloween party for kids on Oct. 27, 4-6 p.m. Gift certificates and an assortment of special prizes await kids in the most unique and scariest costumes.

Today, Bert Nievera, the country's balladeer-for-all-season and this year's recipient of the special achievement award from Aliw Awards Foundation, will put on his biggest concert in years billed "Timeless VII."

The dinner show, presented by Lipton Ice Tea and cosponsored by Citylite 88.3, Joey's Rhythm 92.3 and Mossimo, will be held at the second floor of Country Waffles Restaurant-Greenhills. Dinner starts at 7:30 p.m. and show proper at 9 p.m. Call 722-4415/4422 or 886-0607/0608.

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Cinnamon twists you can't resist

CINNABON offers "Stix You Can't Resist." For every purchase of a 6-pc Classic Express Pack, a Mini-Chocobon 9-pc E-Pack or a Minibon 15-pc E-Pack, you get four pieces of Cinnabon Stix, the newest sweet treat made of twisted dough rolled in cinnamon, sprinkled with sugar and baked to perfection—for free. Save up to P50.

Visit Cinnabon bakeries at Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Shell-Magallanes, Power Plant Mall at the Rockwell Center, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Shell Travel Plaza-North Luzon and at the Shell Travel Plaza-South Luzon.

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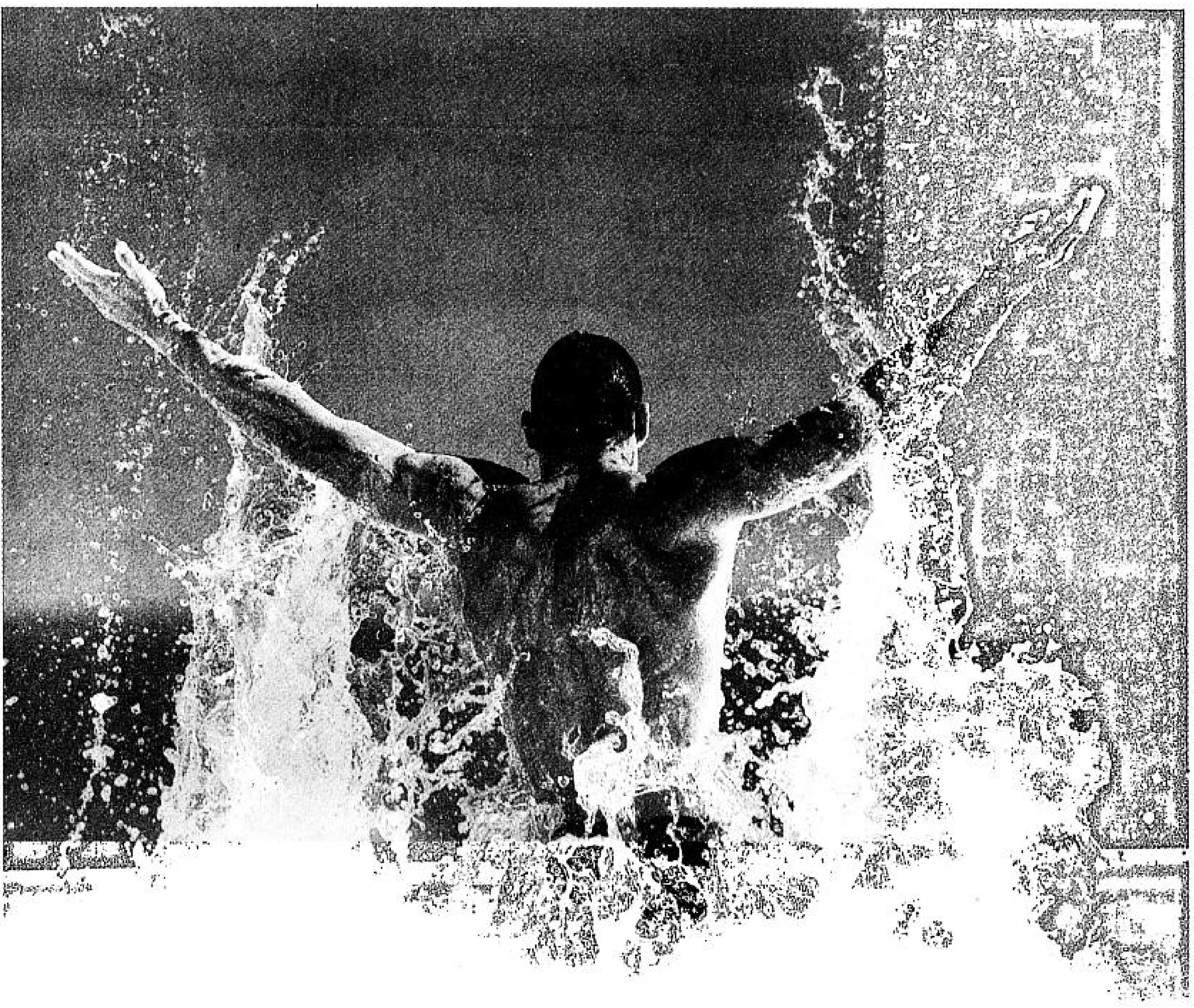
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Flavors of Spain

IN CELEBRATION of Spain's National Day commemorated every Oct. 12, a premier Spanish restaurant in the Philippines, La Tienda, is holding a two-week "Spanish Gastronomic Festival" at their two outlets until Oct. 20.

Chef de Cuisine Javier Lecumberri, a native of San Sebastian in Northern Spain, shows the latest trends of gourmet cooking in his native country. Appetizers such as Jamon Iberico de Bellota and Chorizo Pamplona will leave one salivating for the main courses. Savor Civet de Ciervo con Pure de Manzana y Coulis de Frambuesca (Vennison Stew Topped with Apple Purée and Raspberry Coulis) as well as Pechuga de Pato con Pastel de Patata Bacon y Quezo con Salsa de Pimienta Verde, or Seared Duck Breast on Bacon and Potato Pie with Green Pepper Corn Sauce. Then punctuate a delightful dining experience with Burnt Marinated Farmer's Bread with Crystallized Apple.

La Tienda is located at 3072 Chef's Avenue, Alabang and at 43 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.

Chinese noodle house turns 20

LUK Yuen Noodle House is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a raffle promo called "Luk Yuen: Gud 2 b 20!" until Oct. 31.

The prizes include a trip to Singapore for two with hotel accommodations for three nights and four days, 20 Chain Mart gift cheques worth P2,000 each for shopping at Uni-Mart, Cash & Carry, or Makati Supermart-Alabang, and 20 Luk Yuen gift cheques worth P1,000 each.

Luk Yuen are located at Greenbelt Mall and Glorietta 2 at Ayala Center, Makati; Cash & Carry, Makati; SM Megamall, Building B; Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan; and Makati Supermart, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City.

Japanese restaurant marks 31st year

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant is marking its 31st anniversary with a treat to patrons: a hefty 30 percent off on all its tempura items until Oct. 21, during lunch and dinner.

One of the first Japanese restaurants, Kimpura prides itself for its steady staying power. It mixes quiet elegance and flawless dining.

Kimpura is at the 2/L of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center (892-8274, 893-2307) and Greenhills Shopping Center (beside Uni-Mart). (721-8816/8869).

Put down that bell or else I'll ring mine

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

ONCE more about bells, dear friends, once again about those archetypal objects that chime, that strike the hour, that mark the consecration, that gather the faithful, that warn of danger, that cry signals into the night. They are as old as the discovery of bronze; the sound of a bell was the sound that heralded the beginning of civilization. And then there are bells, like the diving bell, that make no sound but allow us to go and see what we have never seen before. There are metaphorical bells, like the bell curve. There are idiomatic bells, like that in the expression "saved by the bell."

And then there are bells used by idiots, like the ones that sit on the dining table of many Filipino households. Imagine that I, fetishist of bells, would object to the use of a bell! It must be a very ridiculous sort of bell indeed. But it is, and I'm sure you've seen this scene before. A household is at the dining table. The cooked dishes of the day are on the spinning turntable known unaccountably as a "lazy Susan," a device with which I conducted my first experiments in the exploration of centripetal physics as a child, to the sartorial dissatisfaction of other diners. In the background, maids are lurking in the shadows. At some point, someone needs a new glass of water, more ice for the juice, another serving of vegetables. On the table there is a little handbell, usually made of china or glass, which makes an inane tinkling noise. The maid springs forward out of the shadows. "More Coke, please," says the lady of the manor, with a gracious smile, holding her glass out primly.

What, then, is the correct form in these circumstances? I'm afraid that I don't quite know myself. I do have a maid, but for casual visitors, I prefer not to disturb her, and will go into kitchen to get the drinks myself. This is also a good way of slipping out for a few seconds to think of suitable topics for light conversation, to ensure one's breath is fresh and to check for bits of food that might have lodged themselves between my teeth.

Making one's presence felt

French waiters and waitresses, whether in a tearoom like Angelina where they scold you if you don't have small change, or in a three-star Michelin place like Alain Ducasse, are meant to be seen. They make their presence felt, bustling around wheeling about carts on which they incinerate your dessert crepes with carnivalesque flair, or suddenly parachuting down from a trapdoor in the ceiling with a lit match the moment you take out a cigarette. For really excellent, unobtrusive, genteel service, we must turn to the English.

To preempt a deluge of correspondence pointing out the difference between England, the United Kingdom, and Great Britain, let me reiterate, firmly, and specifically: the English. Perhaps it's because they're naturally polite as a race: They apologize when you step on their foot, they queue for buses and when little old ladies enter a full railway carriage all the gentlemen stand up instinctively. Or maybe it's because they've had an Empire, and so are accustomed to servility, the way Americans aren't.

I can imagine Major Davies of the East India Company enjoying his mulligatawny while being fanned by a swaying ceiling fan powered by a string tied to a servant's big toe, while under the table, another servant swishes away mosquitoes that might attack Mrs. Davies (consumptive, addicted to laudanum, and who was mysteriously alone in the billiard room at three-and-20 to nine, when a scream was heard in the gardens outside).

I've never enjoyed service as impeccable as when I was staying at the Connaught, or having afternoon tea at Brown's. It's all the more praiseworthy because I walked in alone, dressed correctly but not impressively: no Turnbull and Asser shirt, no Savile Row suit, no John Lobb custom-mades; just a lonely Asiatic tourist in stained trousers who walked in off the street.

The generation before mine, which did not have their minds warped by left-wing Jesuit theology, had no qualms about making their servants do everything for them. A few of them still survive, or have passed their traits on to the next generation, and I am often frankly puzzled. Unless one is incapacitated, it's usually easier to get up and pour a glass of water than it is to ring a bell, wait, and then have it delivered to you on one of those annoying little circles of glass covered with lace doilies.

In the end, I've decided that it cannot be anything other than a power trip. Every man is Napoleon to his dog, as the saying goes; unfortunately, in our country, many who are middle-class and upward behave in a Napoleonic manner toward the household help, while in the meantime spoiling their Basset Hounds, Golden Retrievers, or Jack Russells to bits.

Power and art of service

There's far too much ground to cover in sociological, economic and cultural terms to discuss the link between the will-to-power and the art of service. One musn't forget that, Tony Blair (who would in another era have been called Sir Anthony Blair or something like that), the New Britain and Cool Britannia notwithstanding, that country's society is still very much stratified by social classes, almost as much as it was at the time when the ultimate subversion of this system was attempted by Henry Higgins in Pygmalion and then, later, in "My Fair Lady." Marx had a vision of a classless society in which everyone would work because they wanted to ("Whee! It's ditch-digging month again!"); in the early 20th century, there were some who hoped that industrialization and mechanization would leave drudge work not to human drones but to machines. But at the beginning of the 21st century there is still someone who puts his foot in another person's face.

And finally, let's not forget one of the more famous bell-ringing experiments of history, starring Pavlov and his dog. Everyone knows the allusion to the "Pavlovian" response in which the ringing of a bell was associated with food, to the point that even in the absence of food, the dog would salivate at the sound of the bell. Less familiar are his later experiments, when he would deliberately confuse the dog by sometimes associating the bell with food, but sometimes alternating it with an electric shock. The dog, not unnaturally, went mad, and if I remember right, attacked Pavlov. (Well, I would have, if I'd been the dog.) And I'd also attack anyone who tinkled a bell to call me.

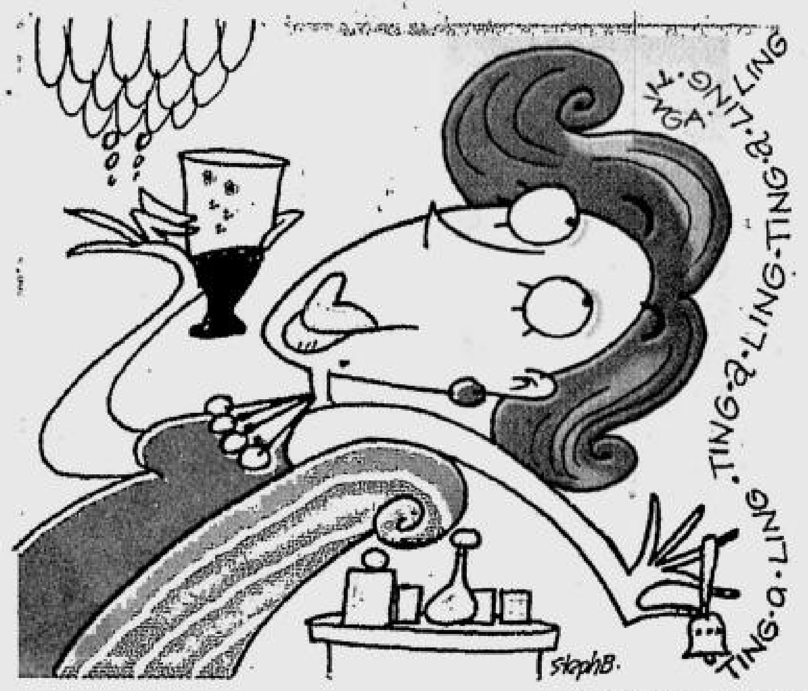
The difference between dogs and people is that people are capable of thought, emotion and understanding. Similarly, there is a difference between a servant who has fixed duties in what is called the "service" or "hospitality" industry (an industry which I'm a member of, as well), and the indentured servant who is not employee but slave. There is an anecdote about a theater critic who filed his review of the play line by line over the telephone as the press was closing, and then at a certain point paused and said that he had been unable to view the last half of the play, because a fire had broken out and the theater had burned down. When asked why he had not brought this up earlier, he replied: "You mistake my profession, sir. I am your theater critic, not your newshound."

Servants should know their place; but employers should know where to put them.

A far-fetched analogy, I admit; but my point is that a domestic servant is employed to carry out specific duties, no more, no less. They are paid (usually unlawful) wages to wash laundry, dust the house, vacuum the rugs, cook the food and polish the silver, and so on. These duties, however, do not include standing with downcast eyes while the employer berates him needlessly because he's had a bad day. These do not include allowing oneself to be shaken awake up in the middle of the night to make Tang with sugar and tuna-fish sandwiches. And maids, even more so than dogs, have names, and should not be made to answer to a bell as long as they are within speaking distance.

Meanwhile, I have purchased an old church bell, the kind that deafens everyone within a five kilometer radius, and I will gladly lend it to any maid who has had enough of bell-ringing and would like to ring a bell back at their employers: a thunderous, resonating clang that means "Coming, sir." It might be the only language the latter are capable of understanding.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph



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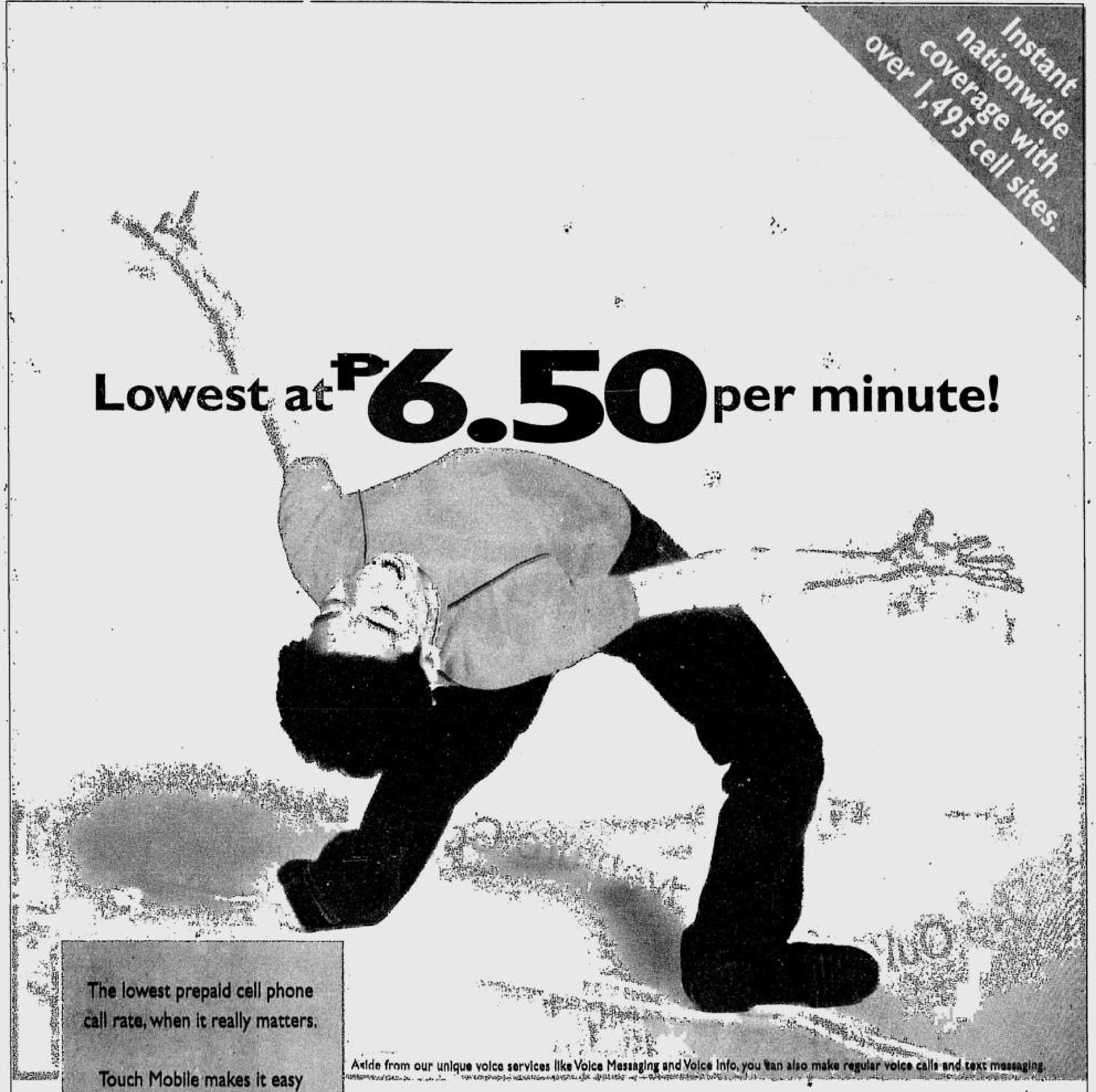

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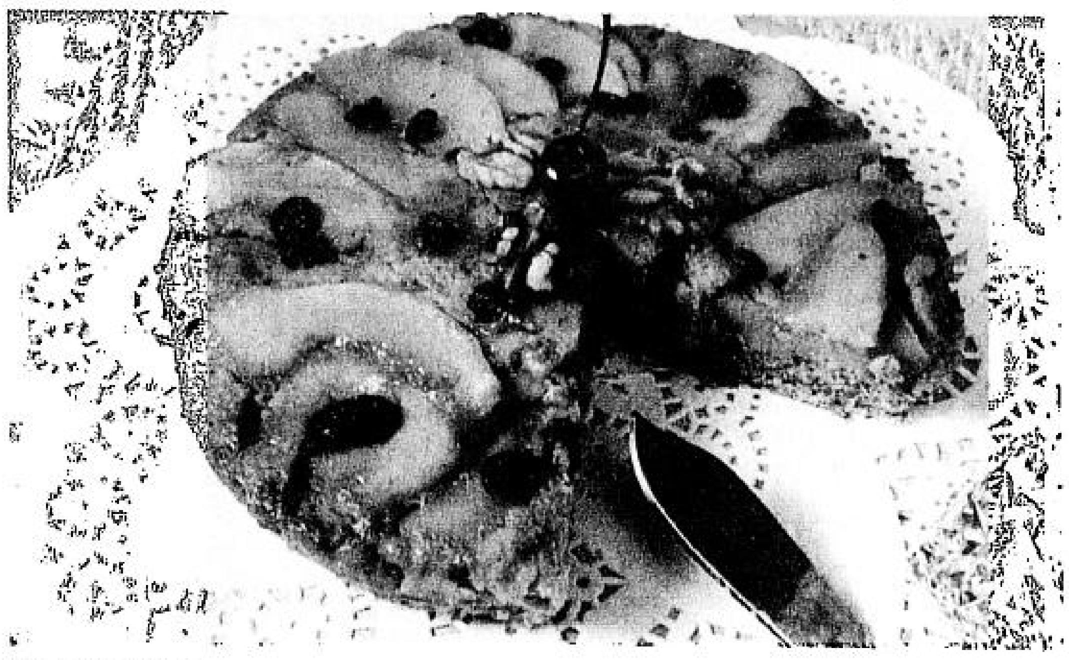
SAVORY Scone Roll



APPLE Spice

Easy-to-bake filling snacks

MEALS cooked at home are still best because you can be assured of sanitation and hygiene as well as nutritious ingredients. However, most people do not have the inclination and time for complicated cooking. Such situation calls for meals that are easy to cook or bake.

The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center has prepared nutritious recipes that can be prepared in no time at all.

Give your packed meals a twist with recipes perfect for your loved ones' snacks at school or at the office. Serve something tasty and novel with ingredients in your ref.

For a filling breakfast or snack, make your own Savory Scone Roll using the combined quality ingredients of Gold Medal All-Purpose Flour and Cake Flour that assures baking success for breads and cakes. You'll get a packful of nutrition from this meal which has carbohydrates, protein, vitamins B1 and C. Not only will you satisfy your stomach but your body's nutrition craving as well. This recipe serve four to six persons.

Treat your taste buds with this Apple Spice cake recipe sprinkled with raisins and walnuts topped with lemon-flavored syrup. This fruity treat is a healthy way to cap your meal.

Nothing beats homemade packed meals prepared with love. So try baking these flavorful Maya recipes for *baon* that will surely be appreciated.

Savory Scone Roll

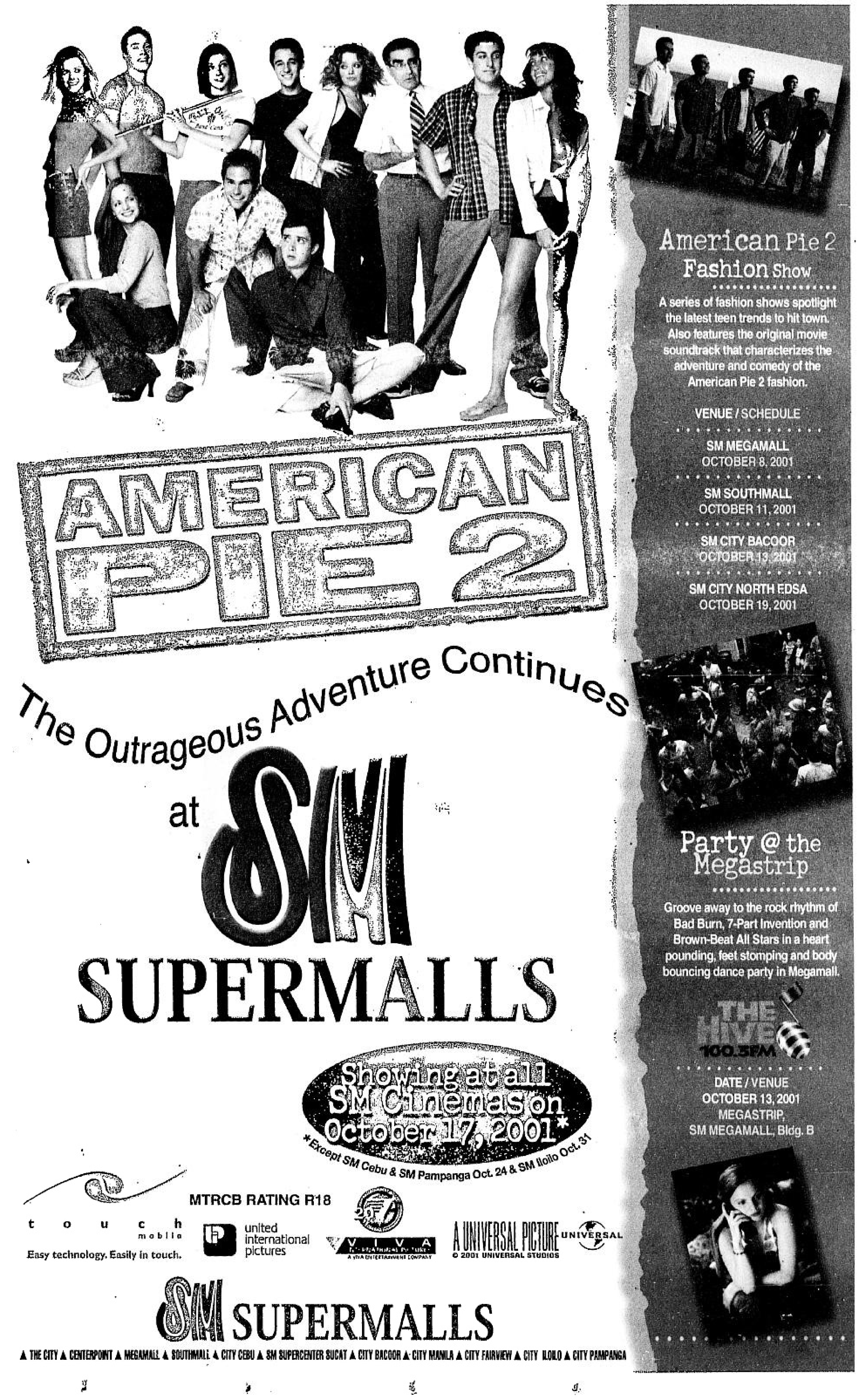
1¼ c Gold Medal Cake Flour
¼ c Gold Medal All-Purpose Flour
½ tsp salt
1/8 c butter
½ c milk
2 tbsps oil
¼ c ham, diced
¼ c green and red bell pepper, diced
1 tbsp cream of corn powder

1. Combine Gold Medal Cake Flour, All-Purpose Flour and salt.
2. Rub butter with the dry ingredients. Make a well in the center.
3. Pour on milk and kneed until soft and free from lumps.
4. Put some oil on dough. Flatten with a rolling pin forming a rectangle.
5. Sprinkle with red and green bell pepper and cream of corn powder. Roll and brush with beaten egg.
6. Bake at 200°C for 20 minutes or until golden brown.
7. Slice 1-2 cm-thick or as desired.

Apple Spice

1 medium-sized apple
½ c brown sugar
90 g butter
1 pc egg
1½ c Gold Medal Cake Flour
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp cinnamon powder
2 tsps baking powder
¼ c raisins
¼ c walnuts
½ c water
Syrup:
1 c water
½ c sugar
2 tsps lemon flavor

1. Prepare the syrup earlier by combining all the ingredients and bring to boil. Set aside.
2. Peel and core the apple. Cut into half and slice thinly.
3. Arrange on 8-inch-thick pan overlapping each other, forming a small circle at the center of the pan.
4. Pour on the prepared syrup. Set aside.
5. On a mixer, cream sugar and butter until light and fluffy.
6. Add the egg.
7. Combine dry ingredients together with raisins and nuts. Add to the mixture alternately with milk and water.
8. Pour on prepared pan with syrup.
9. Bake at 200°C for 20-30 minutes or until the stick comes out clean when inserted at the center. Remove from the pan.



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A series of fashion shows spotlight the latest teen trends to hit town. Also features the original movie soundtrack that characterizes the adventure and comedy of the American Pie 2 fashion.
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THE HIVE 100.3FM
DATE / VENUE
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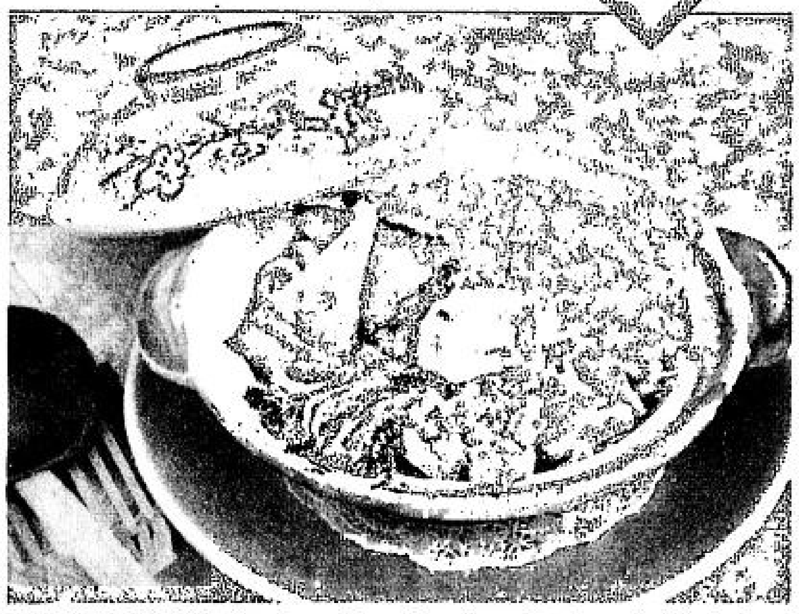

NABEYAKI UDON: Noodles with various ingredients cooked in hot pot

Small is beautiful and delicious at Sanbashi

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento

SERENE, pure and passionate, Sanbashi is a small temple to Japanese cuisine, the kind of restaurant any city would be lucky to have. From soup to dessert, there's scarcely a misstep.

General manager Margaret Young and chef Yoshio Oshima are magicians who bring truth and beauty even to ordinary Corn Potage (cream of corn soup Japanese style) or a simple Kani Kyuri Salad (shredded Osaki crabstick and Japanese cucumber laced with *tobikko* and Japanese egg mayonnaise topped with nori strips).

A motley throng of families,

SMALL/ p.D2

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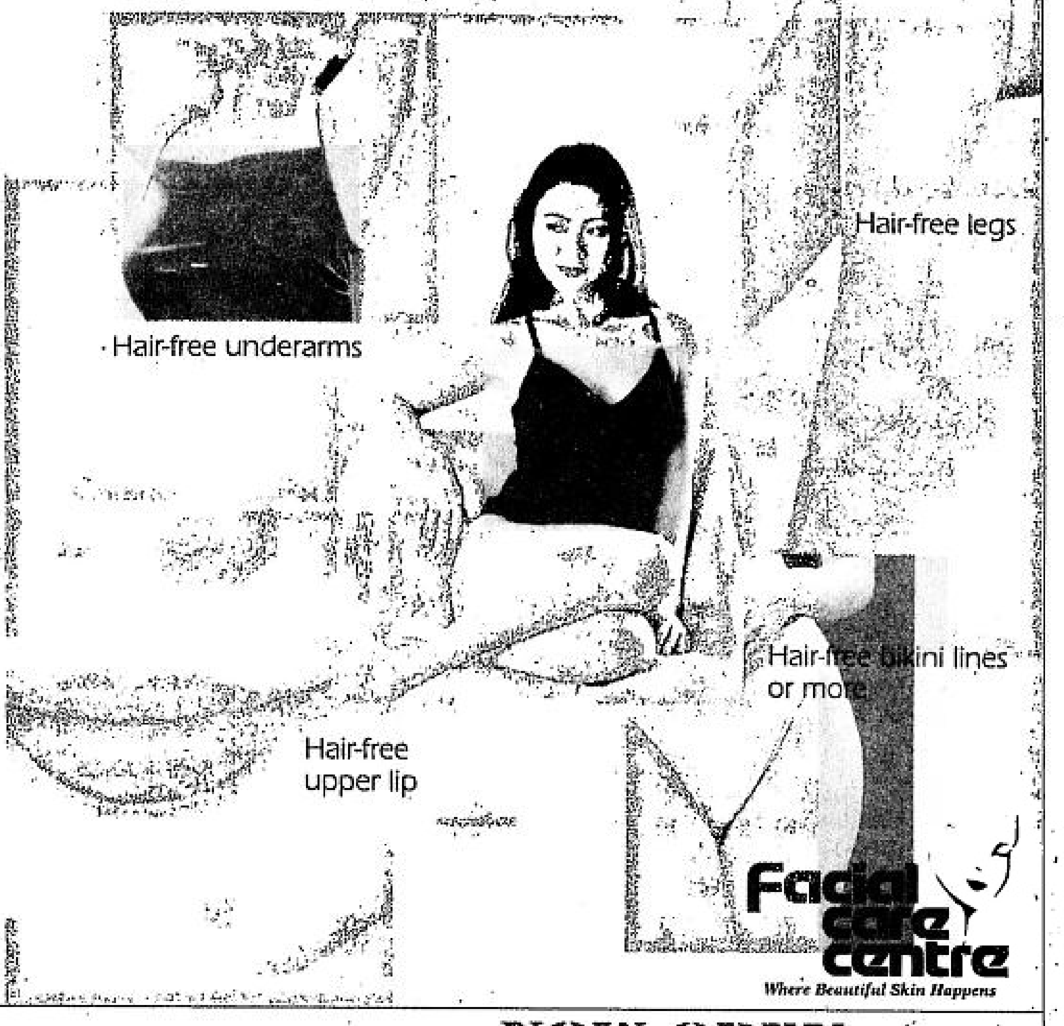

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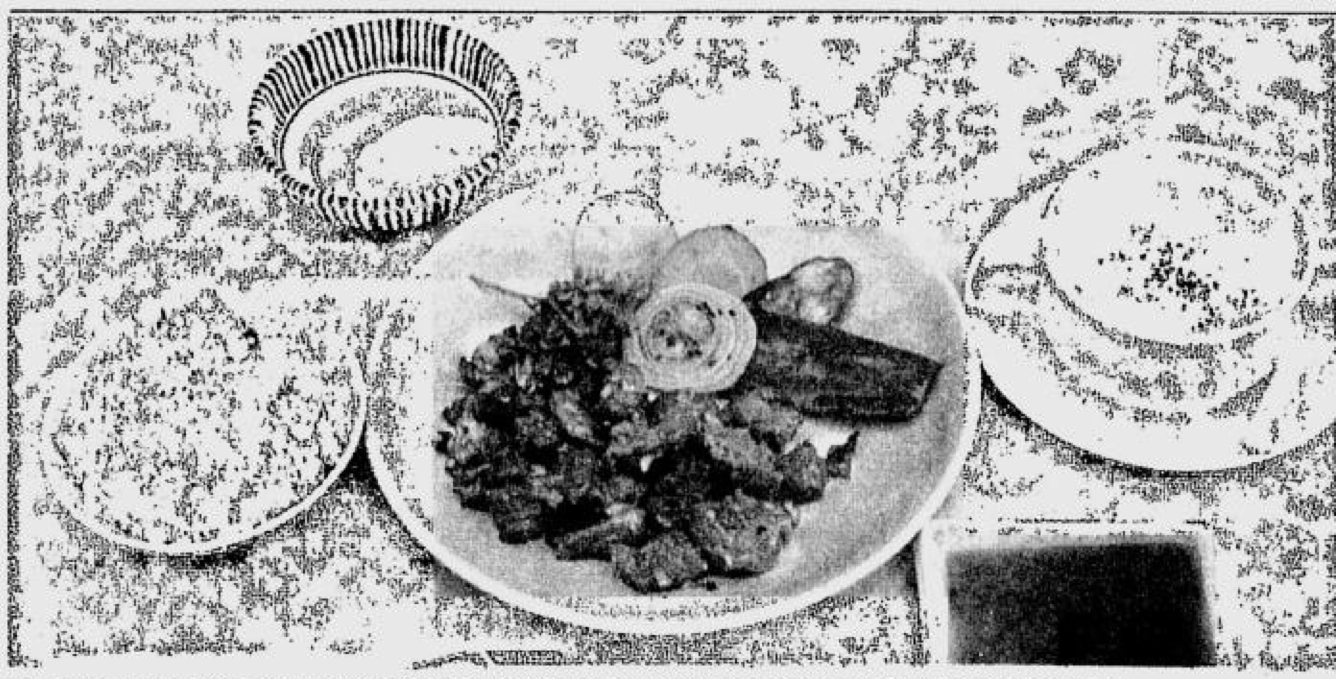


TEPPAN combination of Australian Beef Tenderloin, Garlic Fried Rice, Tamago (Egg) and Corn Potage

In this new Japanese restaurant, it's possible to consume the same divine Japanese cuisine at lunch as at dinnertime—for much less money

KOBE Maru

Small is beautiful and delicious at Sanbashi

(From page D1)

yuppies and office employees get their fix at Sanbashi, whose plate lunches and dinners are the platonic embodiment of Japan's true soul food.

Located at the corner of South Road (T.M. Kalaw) and Parade Street, Luneta Park, Ermita, Manila, Sanbashi is open daily from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Its modern, art-deco interior makes a dramatic setting. Diners can relax and enjoy the bay's view at the patio, where one can also indulge in different kinds of barbecue, except when it's raining.

"Aside from the fascinating combinations of Japanese food, especially sushi and curry, the opportunities for good eating at reasonable prices are abundant here," says Young.

A Chinese who loves Japanese cuisine, the 30-year-old general manager buys some of the ingredients used at Sanbashi whenever she travels. A marketing graduate of St. Scholastica's College, Young took up culinary courses with Sylvia Reynoso-Gala when she got married.

Her chef, Oshima, who comes from Osaka, Japan, also teaches at Gene Gonzales' Center for Asian Culinary Studies.

Classic fare with a twist

Through the Tennyson of Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe and Fukuoka Maru (sushi and sashimi combinations served in boat-shaped containers with rice and *miso* soup), to the Proust of Beef Cold Shabu Shabu (sliced US tenderloin beef served with two sauces) and the Lorca of Kani Corn Cream Korokke (golden-fried potato croquettes filled with crabstick, cream and corn and served with vegetable salad and potato salad on the side), Oshima knits Japanese flavors into his cooking with the virtuosity of a poet weaving classical allusions into sonnets.

His Gindara Teriyaki (grilled cod fillet with house teriyaki sauce) sings of the essence of fish. And the broth for his Miso Shiru, Aka Dashi and Suimono Sumashi Jiru are alchemist's potions of *miso* and clear soup.

You can eat them with a dab of fiery wasabi and washed down with warm sake or beer.

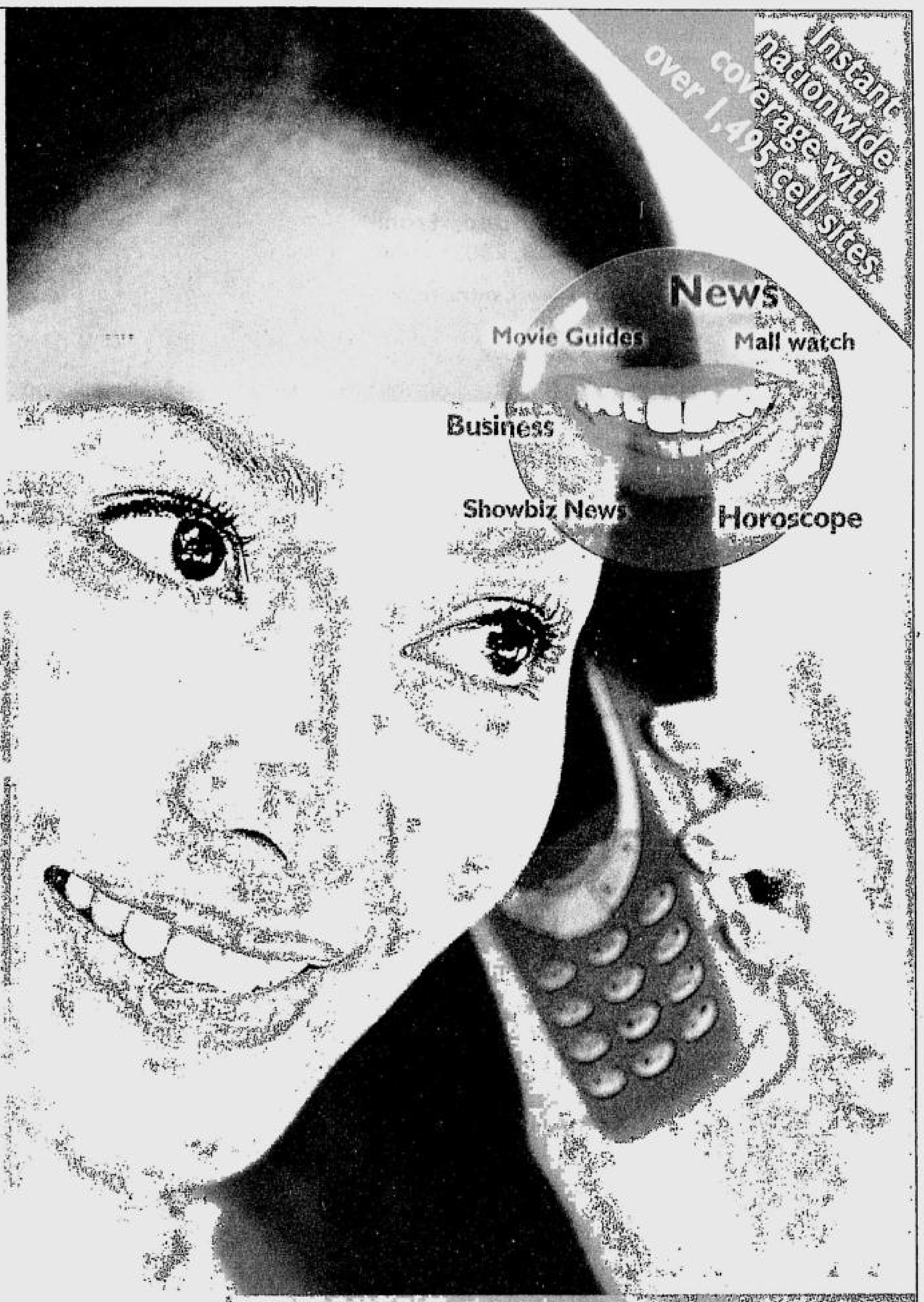
Give in to temptation and indulge in Oshima's lavish architectural confections of Fruit, Espresso and Coffee Jelly Parfaits. Or his Green Tea ice cream served with *azuki* and *mochi*, and Kiwi Shake.

The classic Japanese cuisine is given a twist and impeccable consistency at Sanbashi. It may not be the fanciest restaurant in Manila, but it's definitely a place to splurge and discover beauty even in small things done well.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

FRUIT Parfait and Coffee Jelly Parfait

OKONOMIYAKI: Japanese pizza



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WORLD MENOPAUSE DAY

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **LARRY MARIANO**, Account Manager

Challenge for women: talk to your doctor today

TODAY is "World Menopause Day," and the Philippine Society of Climacteric Medicine (PSCM) joins the International Menopause Society in issuing a challenge to women worldwide: Have one of the most important discussions of your life.

World Menopause Day acknowledges the millions of women who enter this vital stage of life every day, yet still aren't aware of the wonderful opportunities this offers for enhancing health and quality of life. When women reach this time they still have one-third of their lives remaining and should look forward to many more healthy years. But first women need to know their personal health risks, and women need to discuss their options such as good nutrition, exercise, and hormone replacement therapy.

The World Menopause Day challenge calls on every woman age 45 and older to talk to her physician about her individual health history, her risks for diseases, the benefits and risks of hormone replacement therapy, and steps she can take now to take charge of her health.

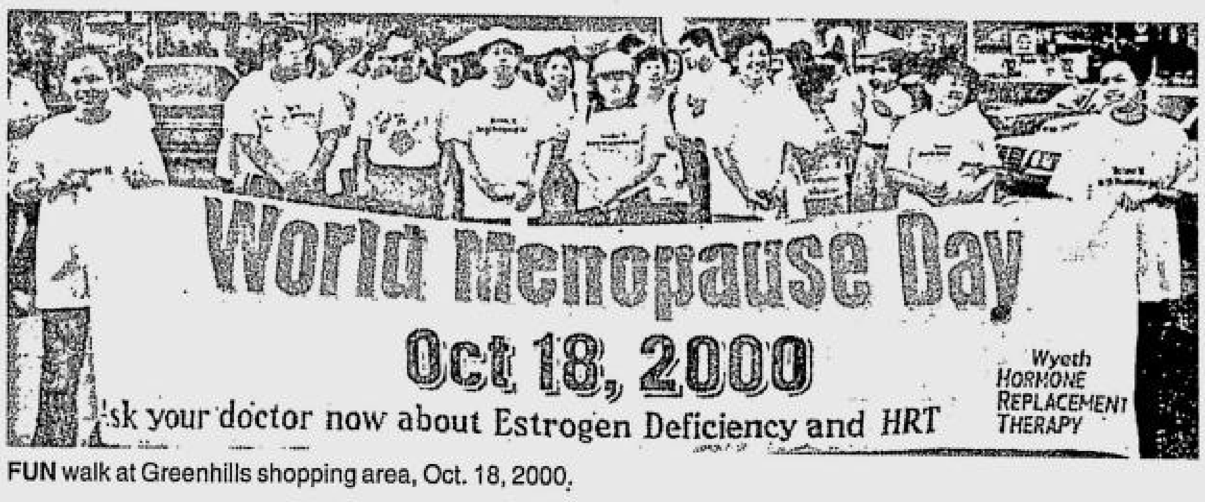
WORLD
Menopause
DAY

What Happens at Menopause?

During this period of life, women's bodies reduce production of ovarian hormones, and this may be may be associated with symptoms such as hot flushes, vaginal dryness, and sleeplessness. Hormone loss over the long term may also be associated with a number of serious diseases, including osteoporosis and heart disease. Consider the following information:

- Hot flushes, sometimes accompanied by sweating and flushing, are the body's response to declining estrogen levels. During a hot flush, which typically lasts from 30 seconds to 5 minutes, the heart beats faster and skin temperature rises.
- Painful sex due to dryness or shrinkage of the vaginal tissues may be caused by the fall of estrogen levels.
- One half of all women over 50 will at some time have a fracture caused by osteoporosis.
- Research suggests that menopausal women are up to THREE TIMES more likely than men to have Alzheimer's disease and estrogen loss may play a role. New research is examining a possible link between estrogen and brain functions, including the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Menopause can be a confusing time and the options may seem complicated but every woman needs to decide what's right for her. It will make all the difference.



FUN walk at Greenhills shopping area, Oct. 18, 2000.

EMPLOYEES of Wyeth Phils. who supported World Menopause Day Celebration 2000

MESSAGE

THE Philippine Society of Climacteric Medicine joins the world in observance of Menopause Day. We believe that every woman and man should be helped so that they stay healthy & fit to enjoy the remaining years of their life. For what indeed matters most is the quality rather than the longevity of one's life.

T.R. Vera, MD
MA. TRINIDAD R. VERA, M.D.
President
Philippine Society
of Climacteric Medicine, Inc.

BRIEF HISTORY

IN AN ORGANIZATIONAL meeting at the Philippine Plaza Hotel on November 28, 1992, obstetrician-gynecologists, cardiologists, orthopedic surgeons and psychiatrists, radiologists, nutritionists, and rheumatologists formally organized the Philippine Society of Climacteric Medicine (PSCM).

Elected officers and members of the board were: Dr. Julita R. Jalbuena, president; Dr. Delfin A. Tan, vice president; Dr. Lilia P. Luna, secretary; Dr. Amelita D. Roa, treasurer; Dr. Guillerma Sahagun, internal auditor; Dr. Jercyl Leilani Demetrio, PRO, and Dr. Leonardo A. Almeda; Dr. Florante P. Gonzaga; Dr. Rosalinda Arceo; Dr. Dante Morales; and Dr. Copernico Villaruel, board members.

Focusing on its objectives, the society aimed at promoting the study of all aspects of the climacteric in both men and women; organizing, preparing, holding and participating in meetings and congresses on subjects related to its objectives; enhancing the interchange of research plans and experience between individual members of society; and disseminating relevant information to both physicians and laymen alike.

PSCM is affiliated with the International Menopause Society (IMS), and some of its members are also members in the Asia-Pacific Menopause Federation Society. There have been representation of the society with the IMS and European Menopause Society with regards to establishment of guidelines in the care of women's health especially of the menopause. Dissemination of information regarding care of menopause women through lectures, lay for meetings and out of town programs and establishing menopause clinic in the different regions of the country.

There are about 605 active members of the society, 75 of which are founding members.

PCSM was incorporated on February 12, 1993.

Annual activities are as follows:

- Annual Convention in the month of September
- Midyear Meeting in the month of June
- Menopause month every October of the year

This year, we had a Consensus Workshop on Practice Guidelines in the Care of the Menopause on February 2-3, at Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo City. The biggest activity of the society is the annual convention. In this year, we are putting up an active participation in this coming menopause month as part of the society's civic involvement.

Women and menopause

THE WORD menopause simply refers to the permanent end of menstruation. It is derived from the Greek words for "month" (*men*) and "cessation" (*pausis*). Menopause is a natural event in a woman's life that results from a decrease in the ovarian production of sex hormones – estrogen, progesterone and testosterone. These hormones allow a woman to become pregnant, cause menstruation, and affect many other functions in the body, such as circulatory system, urogenital system and the bones. While some women have no menopausal symptoms, in others the symptoms may last several years, usually between the ages of 40 and 55. Most women can tell if they are approaching menopause when their menstrual periods start changing. Menopause is confirmed when a woman has not had a menstrual period for 12 consecutive months. However, when menopause begins and how long it lasts varies from woman to woman.

Facts:

- Thousands of women reach menopause every day.
- As many as 75% of women going through menopause experience hot flushes – sudden, brief increases in their body temperature. Hot flushes at night can lead to sleeplessness and insomnia. In about 30% of women, these symptoms can be severe.
- Smoking is associated with the early onset of menopause.
- Menopause can also affect your physical and mental health in positive ways. For instance, if you have migraine headaches or endometriosis, the symptoms may disappear after menopause. Additionally, fibroids usually shrink.

Induced menopause

Although the majority of women experience "natural" menopause, some women may experience "induced" menopause due to a medical intervention such as surgical removal of both ovaries (bilateral oophorectomy) before natural menopause. Induced menopause can also occur if the ovaries are rendered inactive by radiation, chemotherapy or certain drugs.

Due to abrupt loss of ovarian hormones, induced menopause causes the sudden onset of hot flushes and other menopausal symptoms like vaginal dryness. These women as well as those who experience natural menopause before age 40 may be at greater risk later in life for health problems such as osteoporosis since they spend more years without the protective effect of estrogen.

A hysterectomy (uterus removed but not the ovaries) prior to natural menopause does not signal menopause because the ovaries continue to produce hormones. However, sometimes the removal of the uterus will result in menopause because of an interruption of the blood supply to the ovaries.

Symptoms:

- **Hot flushes and night sweats.** The hot flush – a sudden sensation of heat that spreads over your body, particularly on your head, face and chest – is the hallmark symptom of menopause. It is often accompanied by flushing (i.e.: your face may turn red) and sweating, and may be followed by a chill. Hot flushes can interfere with your normal daily functioning and, if they occur at night (called night sweats), they can disrupt your sleep. It has been known for more than 50 years that estrogen loss associated with menopause causes hot flushes and night sweats.
- **Vaginal dryness.** The lining of the vagina needs estrogen to stay lubricated and elastic. The fall of estrogen levels at menopause can cause vaginal atrophy (thinning and loss of elasticity). This often leads to vaginal dryness, which can make sexual intercourse painful or uncomfortable, interfering with intimacy. In addition, vaginal burning, itching, discharge, and occasional bleeding may occur.
- **Urinary problems.** As with the vaginal lining, the urethra (the canal through which urine is discharged) and bladder rely on estrogen to function properly. The estrogen deficiency associated with menopause may cause the urethra and bladder to atrophy. As a result, you may experience urinary problems, such as an increased need to urinate, pain or burning on urination, leaking of urine when you cough or laugh (stress incontinence), or bladder infections.
- **Psychological effects.** For many women, menopause is also associated with culturally specific socio-psychological effects. You may feel anxious or experience mood swings. Other symptoms may include irritability, loss of concentration, headaches, crying spells, tiredness, loss of libido, and depression.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of menopause or perimenopause is usually a clinical one; however, there are other conditions your doctor may want to rule out (such as thyroid problems). There are blood tests available to check your hormone levels, but these tests are not necessary for most women.

Maintaining health and vitality

These are multiple options for therapy:

- Maintain a regular exercise routine
- Restrict intake of caffeine, sugar and salt
- Reduce alcohol consumption
- Take certain vitamins and/or minerals such as calcium and Vitamin E
- Maintain a regular and sufficient sleep schedule
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Soy-products as part of a low-fat, well-balanced diet

Each woman is unique and must make her own informed decisions about her health. The number of women age 50 and above is increasing around the world. Life expectancy is rising. Women can expect to live greater portions of their lives post-menopausal. Proactively managing menopause is an opportunity for women to prevent disease and improve their long-term health and quality of life.

Breast cancer and HRT in perspective

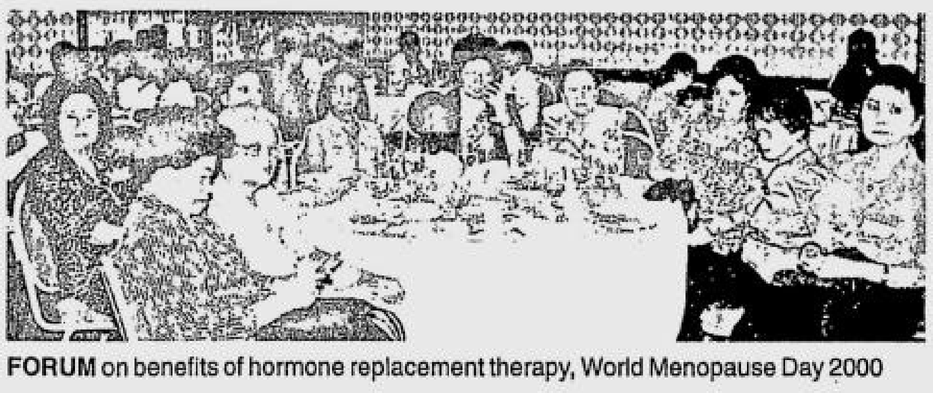
IT MAY seem that hardly a month goes by without a frightening story on television, in a magazine, or in a newspaper about the question of a link between hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and cancer. Many of these stories are intended to cause alarm; after all, if you're frightened, you'll probably keep reading. Bad news just seems to "sell" better than good news. But are these stories accurate? Complicated medical questions are not always analyzed accurately or thoroughly by the media. Women who are concerned about the possibility of a connection between HRT and cancer should turn to health care professionals as the most reliable source of information.

More than 50 studies have been conducted in an effort to determine whether taking estrogen replenishment puts women at increased risk for breast cancer. But the result of this research have often been confusing and difficult to interpret, mostly because the details of the studies, such as the doses and types of hormones used, are inconsistent from study to study. To clear up some of the confusion, several groups of medical scientists have recently done their own analysis, using advanced statistical methods to combine the results of the best studies in an effort to provide some definitive answers about HRT and the risk of breast cancer. Here's what they found:

- An analysis of 16 European and American studies carried out by scientists at the US Centers for Disease control showed that the risk of breast cancer may increase slightly more than 15 years. However, the researchers noted that the increase seems higher than it really is because several of these studies included women who were taking hormones but had not yet gone through menopause. Postmenopausal women who took HRT for less than 5 years had no significant increase in risk of breast cancer. This study was published in the April 17, 1991 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- After reviewing 32 major studies from around the world, a Yale University Researcher concluded that women who take HRT are at no increased risk for breast cancer overall. In the researcher's own words, there is no evidence supporting an "overall increased risk of breast cancer in women who ever postmenopausal estrogen." This study was published in the Oct. 14, 1992 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Conjugated estrogens have been taken successfully by women throughout the world for the past 50 years. Every year, more than 25 million women take advantage of their benefits. To the best medical knowledge today, HRT take in the recommended doses places these women at little or no additional risk of breast cancer.

The decision to take any medication must be made on the basis of whether its benefits, or positive health effects, outweigh its risks, or chances of causing negative health effects.



FORUM on benefits of hormone replacement therapy, World Menopause Day 2000

On the benefit side, HRT protects women against osteoporosis and heart disease.

Two major health problems that actually affect many women than either breast cancer or cancer of the uterine lining. On the risk side, as we have seen, most medical professionals today believe that taking HRT does not increase a healthy woman's risk of developing breast or uterine cancer. Additionally, when a progesterone is added to estrogen therapy, the risk of cancer of the uterine lining may also be decreased in women with uterus.

For this reason, and because HRT provides such important protection against osteoporosis and heart disease, most medical experts agree that for the vast majority of women, the benefits of HRT far outweigh any possible risks.

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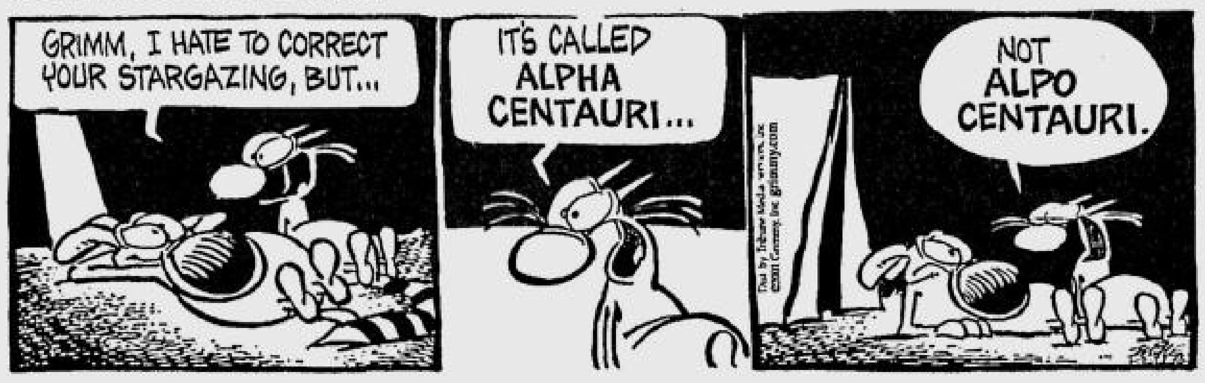
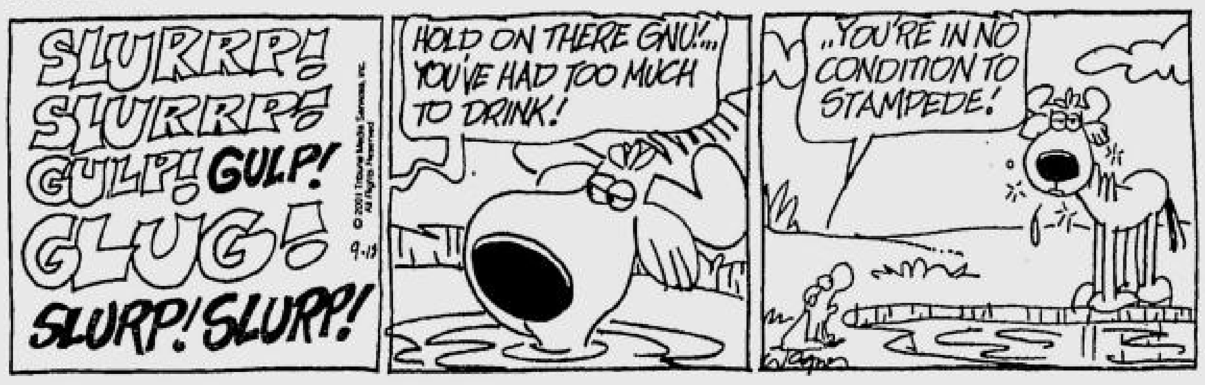
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, I HATE TO CORRECT YOUR STARGAZING, BUT...
IT'S CALLED ALPHA CENTAURI...
NOT ALPO CENTAURI.

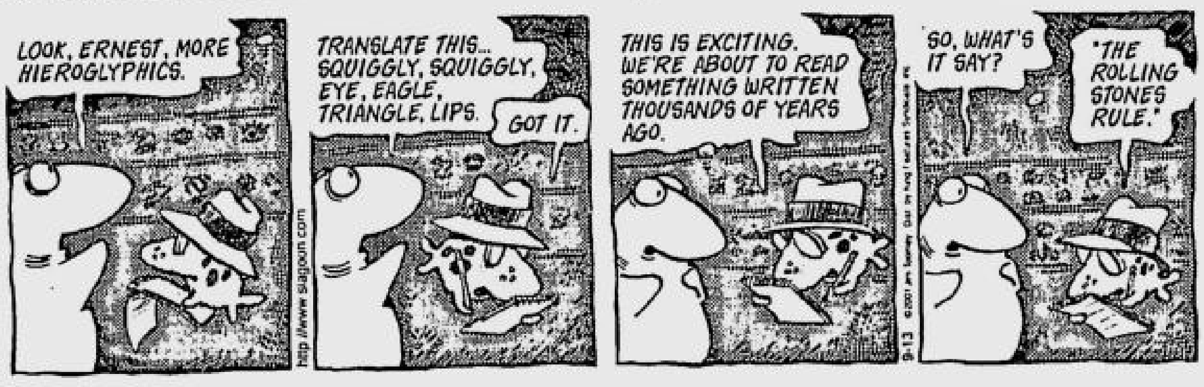
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SLURRP! SLURRP! GULP! GULP! GLUG! SLURP! SLURP!
9-13
HOLD ON THERE GNU!... YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!
..YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO STAMPEDE!

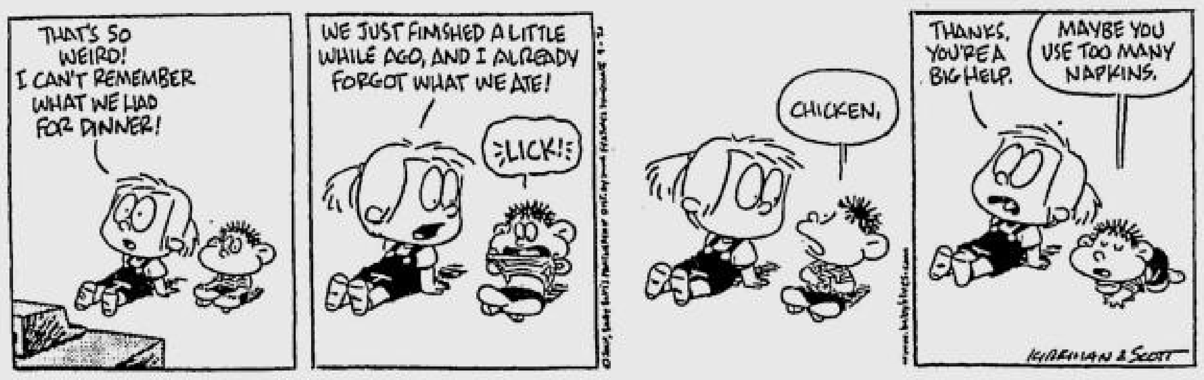
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


LOOK, ERNEST, MORE HIEROGLYPHICS.
TRANSLATE THIS... SQUIGGLY, SQUIGGLY, EYE, EAGLE, TRIANGLE, LIPS.
GOT IT.
THIS IS EXCITING. WE'RE ABOUT TO READ SOMETHING WRITTEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.
SO, WHAT'S IT SAY?
"THE ROLLING STONES RULE."
http://www.slagoon.com
9-13

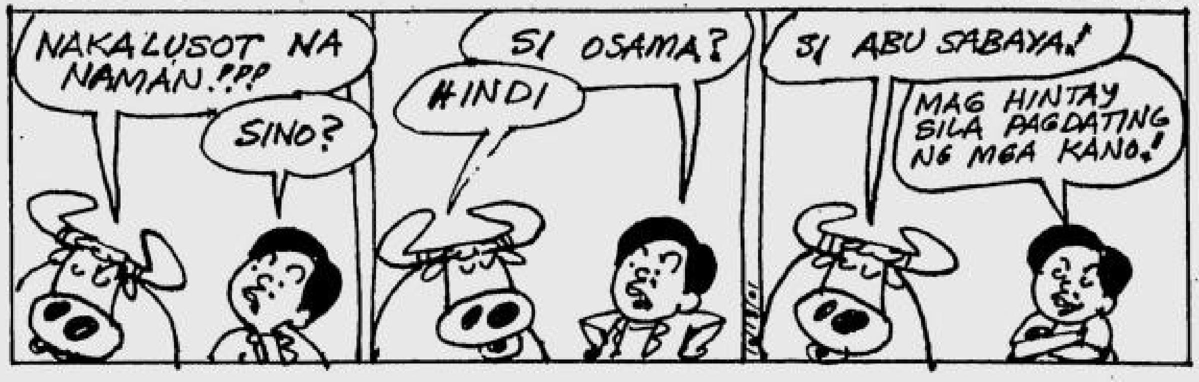
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S SO WEIRD! I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT WE HAD FOR DINNER!
WE JUST FINISHED A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND I ALREADY FORGOT WHAT WE ATE!
LICK!
CHICKEN.
THANKS. YOU'RE A BIG HELP.
MAYBE YOU USE TOO MANY NAPKINS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

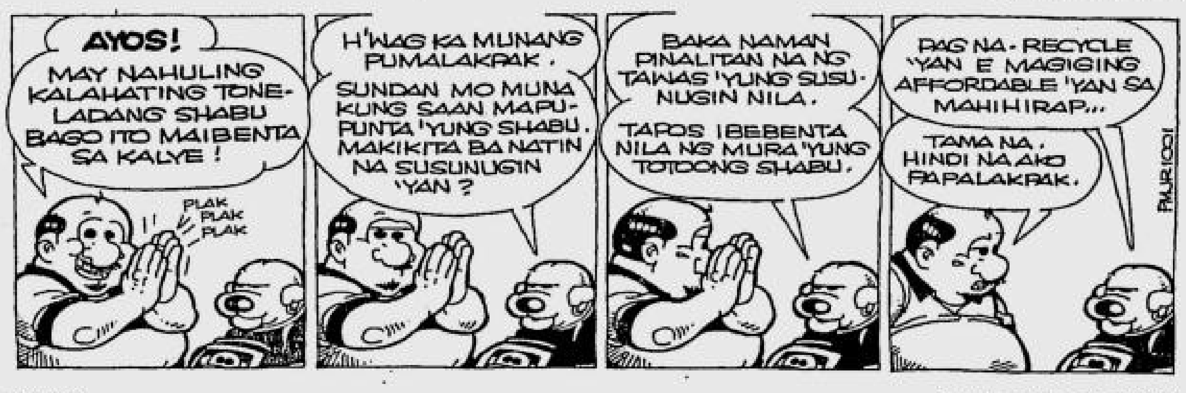
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKALUSOT NA NAMAN.!?!
SINO?
SI OSAMA?
HINDI
SI ABU SABAYA!
MAG HINTAY SILA PAGDATING NG MGA KANO!

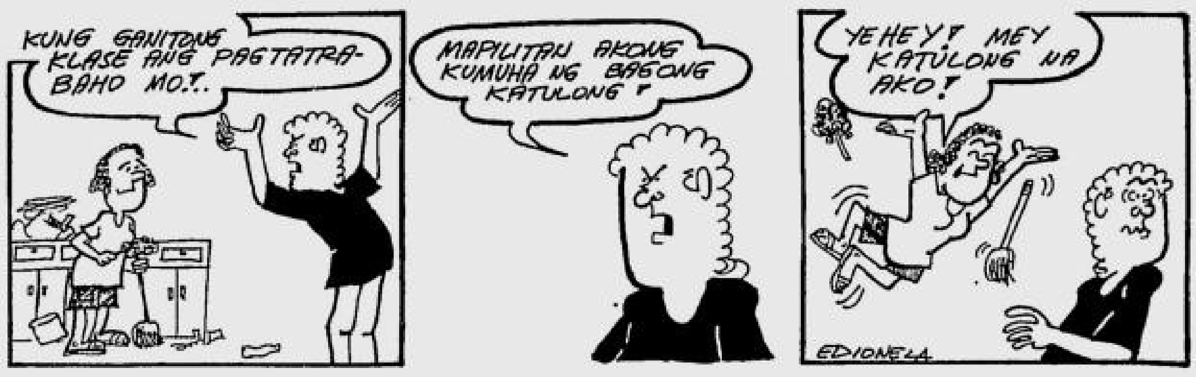
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYOS! MAY NAHULING KALAHATING TONE-LADANG SHABU BAGO ITO MAIBENTA SA KALYE!
PLAK PLAK PLAK
H'WAG KA MUNANG PUMALAKPAK. SUNDAN MO MUNA KUNG SAAN MAPUPUNTA 'YUNG SHABU. MAKIKITA BA NATIN NA SUSUNUGIN 'YAN?
BAKA NAMAN PINALITAN NA NG TAWAS 'YUNG SUSUNUGIN NILA. TAPOS IBEBENTA NILA NG MURA 'YUNG TOTOONG SHABU.
PAG NA-RECYCLE 'YAN E MAGIGING AFFORDABLE 'YAN SA MAHIHIRAP...
TAMA NA. HINDI NA AKO PAPALAKPAK.
PMJR 1001

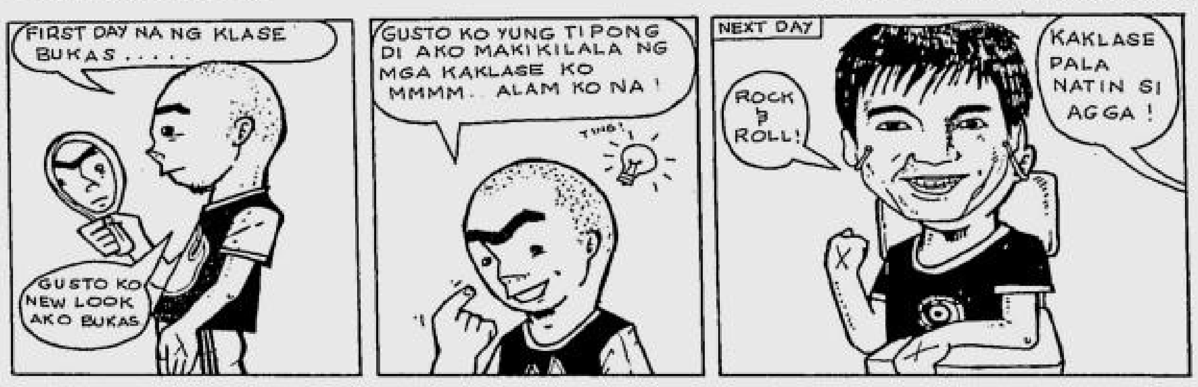
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG GANITONG KLASE ANG PAGTATRABAHO MO.!..
MAPIPILITAN AKONG KUMUHA NG BAGONG KATULONG!
YEHEY! MEY KATULONG NA AKO!
EDIONELA

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN APUL/BENG/MANIX


FIRST DAY NA NG KLASE BUKAS.....
GUSTO KO NEW LOOK AKO BUKAS
GUSTO KO YUNG TIPONG DI AKO MAKIKILALA NG MGA KAKLASE KO MMMM.. ALAM KO NA!
TING!
NEXT DAY
ROCK & ROLL!
KAKLASE PALA NATIN SI AGGA!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Martina Navratilova, Chuck Berry, Wynton Marsalis, Violeta Chamorro, Jean-Claude Van Damme

Happy Birthday: Caution is your best friend. You can achieve plenty, but choose projects wisely. Put your energy where your talents are used in the best way. You can make money by making sacrifices in the interim. Your numbers: 7, 12, 28, 33, 40, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Mingle, present ideas to promote yourself, and make new friends. Children will look up to you. Being a positive influence raises your self-esteem and confidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take it easy today. You may enjoy participating in physical activities but don't overexhaust yourself. The rumors flying around are likely to be false.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Obtain advice from respected older relatives or friends and take the initiative to help the weak and feeble. Your gift of gab will entertain and lift the spirits of those around you today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone at home will be going through a difficult time. Listen for now and don't try to force him or her to do things your way. Don't lose sight of your own responsibilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be reluctant to make a decision if you haven't got all the information you require. You can't rely on others to interpret your actions properly today so don't leave anything to chance. Be prepared to defend yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have nothing to worry about if you're responsible and well-organized today. Being a perfectionist about another's incompetence will lead to frustration. Keep things in perspective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Daydreaming about distant lands distracts you from your work. You might be wise to take a mental health day to relax, reorganize your thoughts and center yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you are suspicious, do some private investigating. Knowing the truth will make you feel better. Someone is probably making empty promises, and you need some answers before deciding your position or future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're on the go today. Present your ideas to those in influential positions, but don't suggest that you'll do something for nothing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your shrewd business nature is not easy to read, which gives you an edge. Your partner may be worried about your secretive nature and decisions on money matters. Hold tight and do what you feel is required.

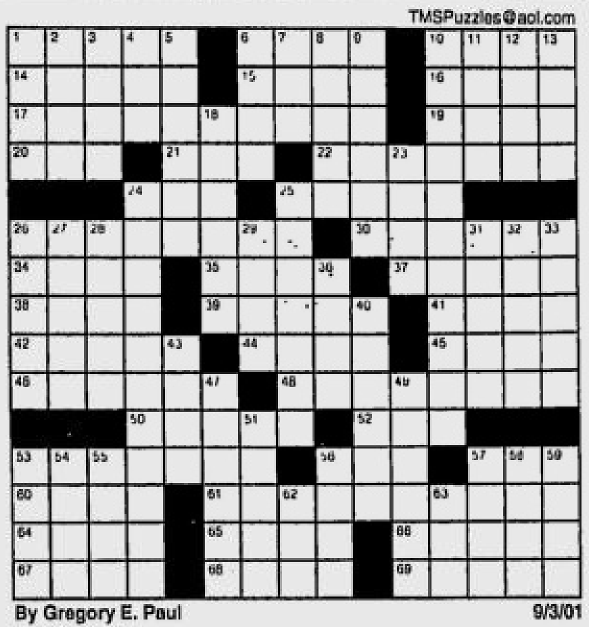
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Officials will not see things the way you do. Don't take chances while driving. Be cautious when dealing with overprotective people. It's time to stand on your own two feet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Kick back with friends and have some fun. They can shed some light on your personal situation. Make some changes that will help create an image of a vibrant go-getter.

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, intelligent and imaginative. You are dedicated and devoted to loved ones as well as sensitive, romantic and eager to try new things.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

9/3/01

ACROSS

1 1983 Mr. T movie
6 Notoriety
10 Medal of Honor recipient
14 Songwriter Greenwich
15 Vivacity
16 Ardent
17 Paradise
19 __ Rivera, CA
20 Shoe's tip
21 Disapproving sound
22 Wino
24 Kipling book
25 Former royal house of Italy
26 Warlike
30 "The Scream" painter Munch
34 Chief Norse god
35 Mrs. Nick Charles
37 Hoarder
38 Ensign
39 Clothes lines?
41 In __ of
42 Composer Grofe
44 Gin-and-tonic garnish
45 Young Highlanders
46 Bean and Welles
48 Bilge water
50 "Wayne's World" star Mike
52 Pen on a farm
53 Fabric with a raised design
56 Skier Tommy
57 Menlo Park initials
60 Ritzy wheels
61 Paradise
64 Gossip tidbit
65 United force
66 Select few
67 Sheet of glass
68 Cogito __ sum
69 Evil spirit

DOWN

1 Liability
2 "Carry on __"
3 Gumshoe's evidence
4 Be unwell
5 Get lost!
6 Handled
7 After a fashion?
8 Marine ray
9 Salad ingredient
10 Paradise
11 Wickedness
12 Wedding shower?
13 Aroma
18 People
23 Whale groups
24 Paradise
25 Exerts to the utmost
26 Soprano Anna
27 Loafer
28 Truth stretchers
29 Playwright Coward
31 Of birds
32 Marsh grasses
33 Lebanese militia
36 Shortened bullets?
40 Detection device
43 Contemporary Irish singer
47 Staid
49 Moped
51 Allude (to)
53 Radar signal
54 Actress Moreno
55 Portent
56 Short note
57 In good shape
58 Quartet member
59 Biblical paradise
62 Product label
63 Spanish cheer

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

H	O	S	T	I	L	E		A	L	S		G	A	G
A	R	O	U	S	E	R		N	I	T		R	U	R
R	I	N	G	L	A	R	D	N	E	R		A	G	A
D	N	A			P	S	E	U	D	O	N	Y	M	S
T	O	T	A	L			C	L	E	V	I	S	E	S
O	C	A	R	I	N	A			R	E	D	O	N	E
P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	S			E	N	T	S
				O	L	I	V	E	R	S				
D	I	S	H			S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	D
E	N	C	A	M	P			E	V	I	L	O	N	E
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I	N	T	E	R	P	O	S	E	D			M	I	S
V	E	T		M	A	L	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E
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R	Y	E		N	A	T		S	A	D	D	E	S	T

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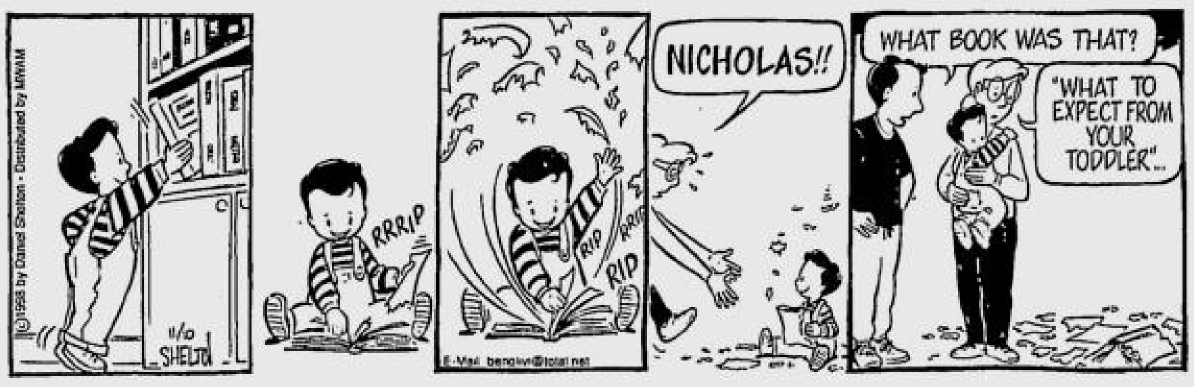
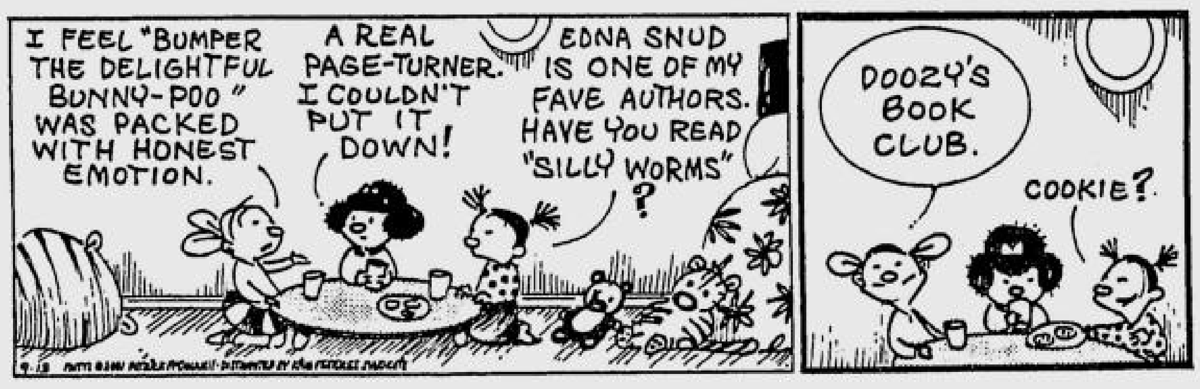
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRRIP
RIP RIP RIP
NICHOLAS!!
WHAT BOOK WAS THAT?
"WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR TODDLER"..
SHELTON

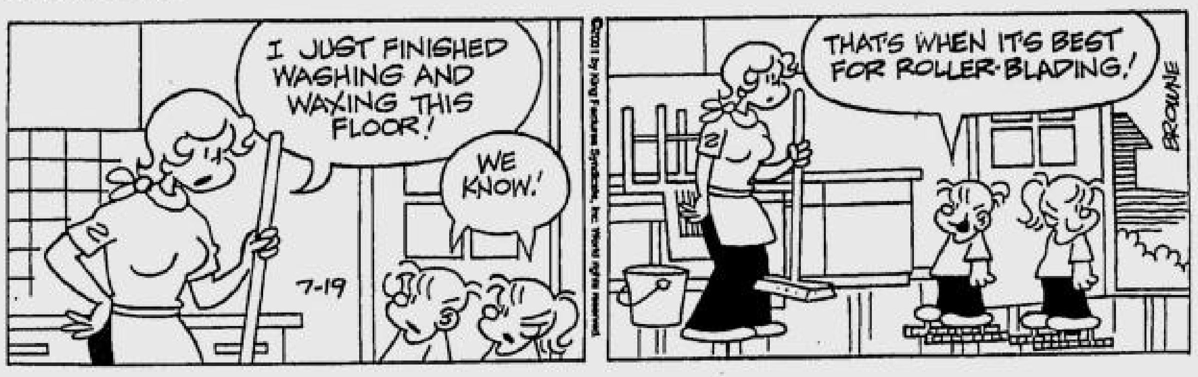
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I FEEL "BUMPER THE DELIGHTFUL BUNNY-POO" WAS PACKED WITH HONEST EMOTION.
A REAL PAGE-TURNER. I COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN!
EDNA SNUD IS ONE OF MY FAVE AUTHORS. HAVE YOU READ "SILLY WORMS"?
DOOZY'S BOOK CLUB.
COOKIE?
9-13

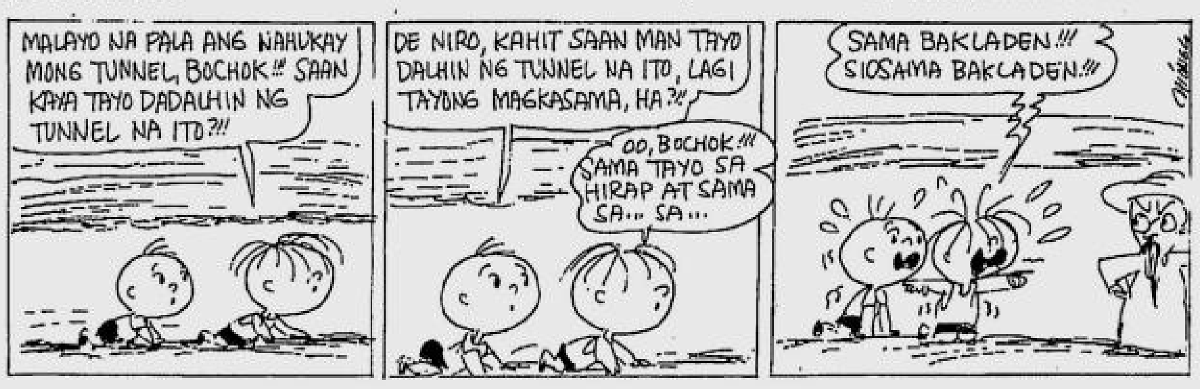
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I JUST FINISHED WASHING AND WAXING THIS FLOOR!
WE KNOW!
7-19
THAT'S WHEN IT'S BEST FOR ROLLER-BLADING!
BROWNE

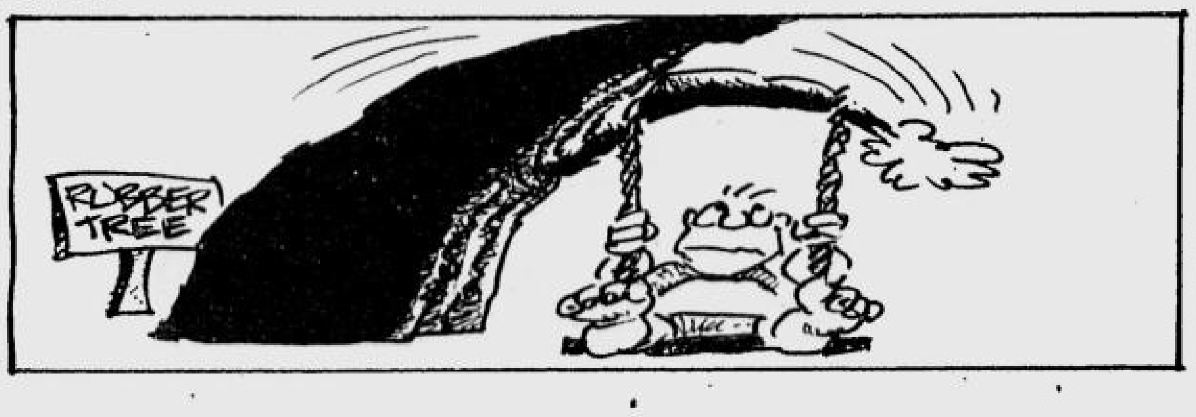
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MALAYO NA PALA ANG NAHUKAY MONG TUNNEL, BOCHOK!!! SAAN KAYA TAYO DADALHIN NG TUNNEL NA ITO?!!
DE NIRO, KAHIT SAAN MAN TAYO DALHIN NG TUNNEL NA ITO, LAGI TAYONG MAGKASAMA, HA?!!
OO, BOCHOK!!! SAMA TAYO SA HIRAP AT SAMA SA... SA...
SAMA BAKLADEN!!! SIOSAMA BAKLADEN!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


RUBBER TREE

Chinese winter sojourn with clay pot specialties

NEW WORLD Hotel's Rigatoni with Fennel, Sausage and Peppers

MANDARIN'S Braised Whole Pigeon with Bamboo Shoot and Black Mushroom

DINING OUT

MANDARIN ORIENTAL welcomes the Chinese winter season with a gastronomic festival depicting a centuries-old cooking custom. The rare offering is presented until Oct. 31 at Tin Hau, the hotel's premier Chinese restaurant. Selections include Satay Hot Pot with Fresh Seafood (lobster, scallops, clams, fish fillet, beef, squid, chicken, mushroom and vegetables); Baked Lobster with Pine Seeds in Spicy Sauce, Braised Whole Pigeon with Bamboo Shoots and Black Mushrooms; Pork Knuckle in Black Pepper Sauce; Clay Pot Rice with preserved meat and Chinese sausage, Stuffed Bean Curd with Minced Shrimp in Portuguese Sauce; Braised Duck with Chestnuts in Brown Sauce; Stewed Diced Chicken and Salted Fish with Soft Bean Curd, and King Prawn. Call 750-8888 local 2422 and 2424.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Inagiku will showcase a harvest of delectable seafoods from Oct. 18 to Nov.1. Diners can choose from *taraba* or king crab, which is sought after for its meaty legs; *hanasaki* or spike crabs, known for their spiked shell; and *zuwai*, a popular crab variety not only in Japan but in Korea, Russia and Canada. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888.

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA offers a taste of Cebu until Oct. 31. Guest chefs from Kinamot sa Escario, a dining landmark in Cebu, share popular and mouth-watering Cebuano dishes like Piniritong Inun-unan (Fried Tuna in Special Seasonings), Ginisal nga Sikwa (Sautéed Native Zucchini), Pinakurat na Nukos (Fresh Squid Dipped in Hot Steaming Oil and Mixed with Vinegar Onions, Pepper, Tomatoes and other Native Spices) and Dinuldog (Red Squash with Dried Fish Simmered in Coconut Milk), Lechon Manok Bisaya (Roasted Native Chicken) and Tinabal (Salted Fish Sautéed in Oil, Garlic, Onions and Tomatoes). Call 551-5555 local 1531.

RESTORAN BARASOAIN reopens at the G/F Mile Long Theme Center on Amorsolo Street, Makati. The restaurant specializes in authentic Filipino cuisine using home recipes of gourmet chef Conrad Calalang. Specialties include Pinalutong na Isda, Manok sa Dahon Sili, Kare Kare sa Kasoy, Chicken Asado de Carajay and Paksiw na Isda at Bihod sa Ampalaya. Call 844-7070 or 813-6394.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL offers authentic dishes from Italy's most celebrated regions—Tuscany, Rome, Florence, Milan and Bologna until Nov. 31. Special menu offerings include Marinated Eggplant and Goat Cheese Tart with Black Olive Aioli; Panzanella Bread Salad with Fennel, Tomato, Onion, Cucumber and Red Wine Vinegar; Pressed Focaccia Sandwich with Grilled Vegetables and Taleggio Cheese; Rigatoni with Fennel, Sausage and Peppers; Goat Cheese Lasagna with Spicy Sausage and Slow Roasted Tomato, Ossobuco with Tomato Marscapone Polenta and Rosemary Gremolata, Chicken Saltimboca and Balsamic Berries with Gelato. Call 811-6888 local 3318.

DUSIT HOTEL'S Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant will celebrate Thailand's most colorful festival, Luoy Krathong, on Oct. 31 to Nov.1, 6-10 p.m.

Dusit's Thai Chef Suwattee Teerapath offers a special set menu. Guests may sample Set Menu A, which includes Gung Hom Sabai (deep-fried stuffed prawns) for appetizer, Yum Talay (combination of seafood salad), Tom Kha Gai (chicken and *galangal* shoots in coconut milk) for soup; for main course, Pla Nung Manao (steamed seabass with garlic, lemon and chili), Phad Pak Kana Moo Krob (stir-fried broccoli with crispy pork) and Gaeng Karee Gai (yellow chicken curry); and finally for dessert, Ruam Mit Chao Wang (water chestnut, young coconut and jackfruit in syrup with coconut milk). Set Menu B includes Por Pia Savoey (Thai spring rolls) for appetizer, Yam Ma Duk Foo (crispy catfish with green mango salad), Tom Yam Gung (Thai hot prawn soup with lime and lemon grass); main dishes includes Gai Phad Med Mamuang (chicken sautéed with cashew nuts), Gaeng Kiew Wan Neua (green curry beef with young coconut heart) and Phad Pak Ruam Mit (assorted fried vegetables in oyster sauce). For dessert, there is Ka Nom Tako (sweet water chestnut and coconut cream). The restaurant offers an executive set lunch Japanese style daily. Call 867-3333 local 3351/3353.

MARINATED eggplant and goat cheese tart with black aioli

40 percent off on hi-end cutlery

ZWILLING J.A. Henckels Solingen joins Germany and the rest of the world in celebrating the Oktoberfest. For the entire month of October, Solingen products are on sale up to 40 percent off.

The Solingen showrooms are located at 5/L SM Megamall; 3/L Glorietta 4; Concourse Level, Power Plant Mall; U/GL Alabang Town Center; 3/L Robinsons Place Manila and L/GL SM City Manila.

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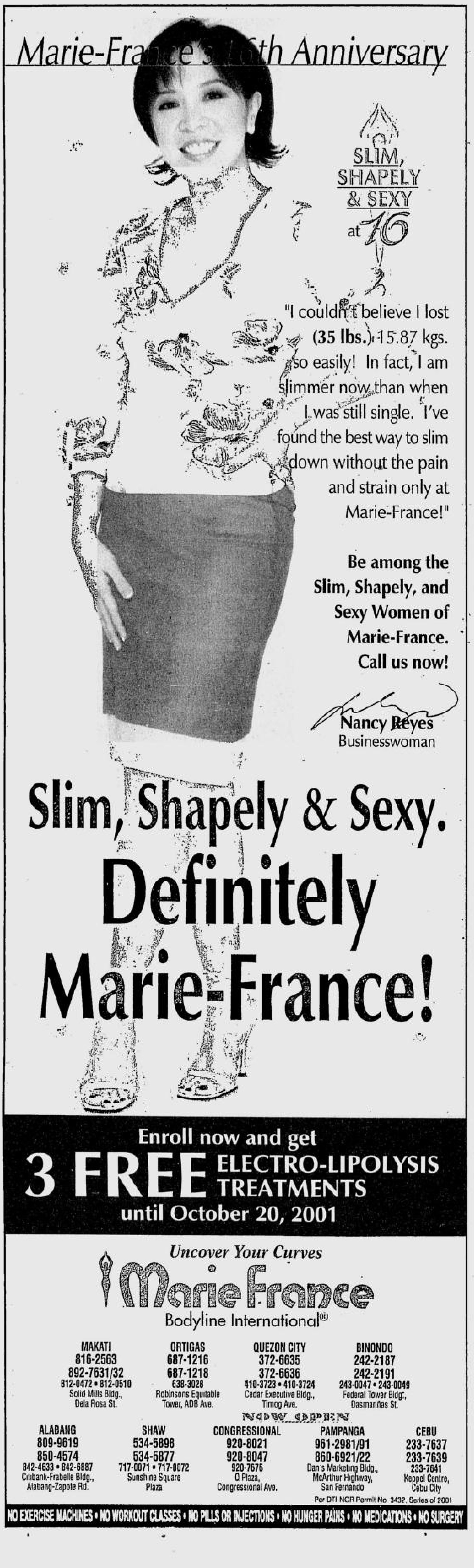
Angeles	(045) 887-5609	EPCIB Bldg., Miranda St., Angeles City
Batangas	(043) 723-5151 / 984-1927	Ground Floor EPCIB Bldg., Rizal Ave. corner P. Burgos St., Batangas City
Cagayan de Oro	(088) 857-1425	Velez, Cagayan de Oro
Cebu	(032) 231-1083 / 231-4318	Gorordo Ave., Lahug, Cebu City
Davao	(082) 221-7944 / 221-7925	EPCIBank San Pedro, Davao City
Iloilo	(033) 337-8883 / 336-0916	EPCIBank Valeria, Iloilo City

GOLFERS Share Inc.'s Paul Cortez, FGU vice president Caloy Fragante, Ilustrado president Boni Pimentel, PBCom vice-president Leo Villanueva and guest.



Marie-France's 16th Anniversary

SLIM, SHAPELY & SEXY at 16

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Nancy Reyes
Businesswoman

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Whisky drinkers relish their favorite brand

THE SPARKLE and aroma of Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch Whisky has been invading some of the country's trendy and exclusive clubs and restaurants with a series of whisky appreciation and cocktails that has made whisky drinkers relish the famed brand even more.

Brand ambassador Alan Charles Atkins was on hand to lead the journey into the wonderful yet fascinating world of whisky-making.

The nationwide journey of Johnnie Walker kicked off at the posh Marco Polo Hotel in Davao and among those who were "enlightened" were Marco Polo's general manager Charles So, R.S.V.P. Prod. CEO Rolando Ramos, RCBC area head Diomedes Lim, Mindanao Business Reporter's Angelo Moreno Abarico, as well as Swiss Gourmet president Romano Venuti.

From Davao, the Johnnie Walker group moved on to the Queen City of the South, Cebu, where two cocktail sessions were held at the Vudu Lounge in Cebu City and the Plantation Bay.

Back in Manila, whisky drinkers were treated to an intimate gathering at the posh Universal Leisure Club in Makati. Lastly, Shangri-La Makati's Conways was the chosen venue for the district's businessmen.

During all these whisky appreciation cocktail sessions, brand ambassador Atkins explained the rudiments of the "proper" way of drinking whisky: inspecting the color, "nosing" or savoring the aroma, inspecting the "legs" and finally making that sip to complete the whisky experience.

Five flutes containing different kinds of whisky were laid out for every guest. Each whisky carried with it a distinct flavor that echoed the region in Scotland where it was distilled. The first four flutes each gave a hint of how meticulous the art and science of whisky-making is, thereby producing whisky of high standards.

Of course, the best was saved for last. The fifth flute contained Johnnie Walker Black Label—the finest blend among all Scotch whiskies. Excellent for sipping, Johnnie Walker Black Label is considered as the most popular in the hierarchy of Johnnie Walker labels. It is the oldest whisky in the market and was awarded the Littlemill Distillery Trophy for best-blended whisky at the 1994 International Wine and Spirits Competition.

It likewise bagged a gold medal for Best Blended Scotch at the San Francisco International Spirits Competition. And in the recent Super Brand 2001 poll conducted by Reader's Digest, Johnnie Walker was also voted as the best whisky brand in the Philippine market.

ALAN Atkins, Jesus Romero Salas and Mike O'Connor

SEATED (l-r) Julius Bucog, Johanna Cua, Carmen Lapus and Loren Infante (standing from left) Panch Gillego, Tañi Cruz and Daphne Jorda

Toast to health and wellness

DRINKING wine evokes the good life and exudes sophistication. It inspires and soothes the mind and caresses the senses.

There are more compelling reasons to drink wine however, like health and wellness.

Natural grape sugars in wine are readily absorbed by the human body. Alcohol in wine is a source of caloric energy. Wine has blood-building iron content. It contains 13 mineral elements we all need to live healthy lives. Morever, it promotes appetite, digestion and well-being. It also enhances the flavors of cuisine.

Studies have shown, that the Pinot Noir variety is probably the finest wine for cardiovascular health.

Fine wine selections bearing the exclusive Prado wines label have finally conquered the Philippines. Discriminating Filipino consumers can now choose from its wide array of superior wines that include Prado Pinot Noir, Prado Pinot Blanc, Prado Rieslilug and the Prado Sparkling Wine.

The bittersweet red wine, Prado Pinot Noir, has black currants, cherries, plums, cloves, mint and earth. It is medium-bodied with soft tannins—featuring a good balance between fruit and oak. It is the best companion drink to steaks, roasts, chops, pasta, cheese and other highly seasoned dishes.

Prado from the noble Riesling variety that yields white wine is light-bodied and bursting with sweet floral notes and citrus fruits. Citrus fruits, apples and pears mingle with minerals to produce the sophisticated Riesling. Riesling best complements seafoods and fowl with white meat.

Pinot Blanc has a full-bodied yet subtle flavor. The refreshing bouquet of the wine emits distinctive features of fresh fruits such as peach, melon, banana, as well as toasty oak.

The Prado Sparkling wine is delightfully sweet and light and made from the choicest grape variety made naturally effervescent by second fermentation, which is conducted in closed containers. The wine oozes with a lively and delicate fruity bouquet and blends perfectly with desserts.

The Prado Wines selection is brought to the Philippines by Kifil International.

PRADO
PRADO
PRADO
RIESLING
PRADO

Wine-tasting seminar and training set

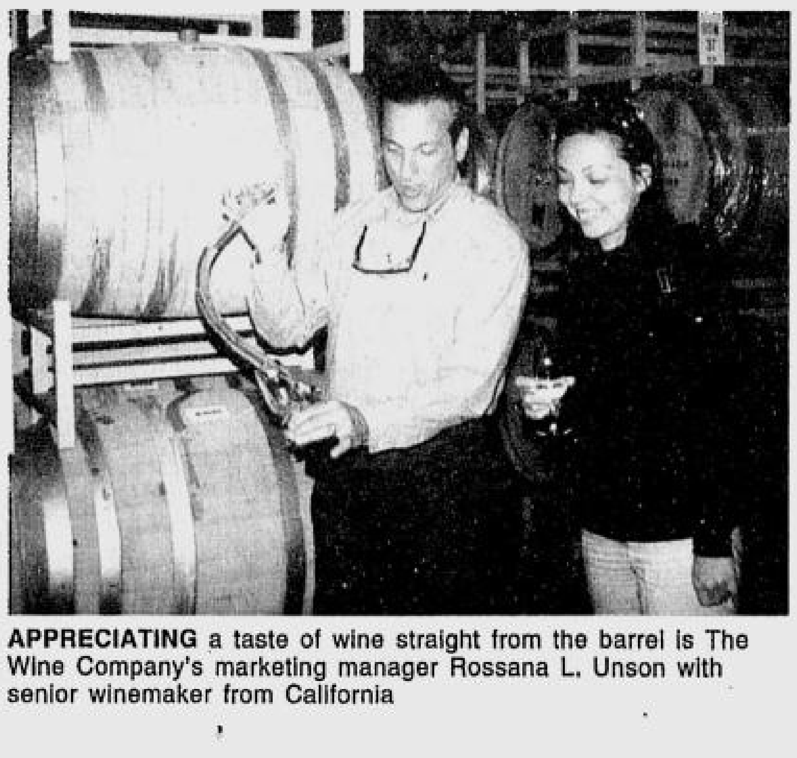
THE WINE Company, a spin-off of Premier Wine & Spirits, which distributes Chivas Regal scotch whiskey, Absolut Vodka, Martell Cognac and Jack Daniel's whiskey, seeks to demystify wine by education.

The Wine Company aims to do this by a series of public "educational" wine-tasting seminars and trainings to be conducted by The Wine Company's general manager, Sherwin Lao.

"We would like to be indispensable wine consultant of our clients—whether they're in to satisfy personal curiosity or enjoyment or for professional service training for wine-list assistance, wine promotions, point-of-sale to pricing and inventory," said Rosanna Unson, marketing manager.

The wine training includes modular courses for wine basics and advanced courses, food and wine pairing session, and component tasting and aroma exercise. "Component tasting teaches you to recognize wine according to our taste reception, differentiating and discerning sweetness, acidity and tannin, the common components of wine. The seminar will introduce our public to the individual taste of the components by intensifying or exaggerating each component in the wine to allow fast and easy detection. Ditto with the aroma exercise," said Lao.

There will also be a Consumer Wine Training Camp. Online wine advice is available at www.wineco.net.



APPRECIATING a taste of wine straight from the barrel is The Wine Company's marketing manager Rossana L. Unson with senior winemaker from California